Ranger Rick's nature magazine

November, 1967

PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION

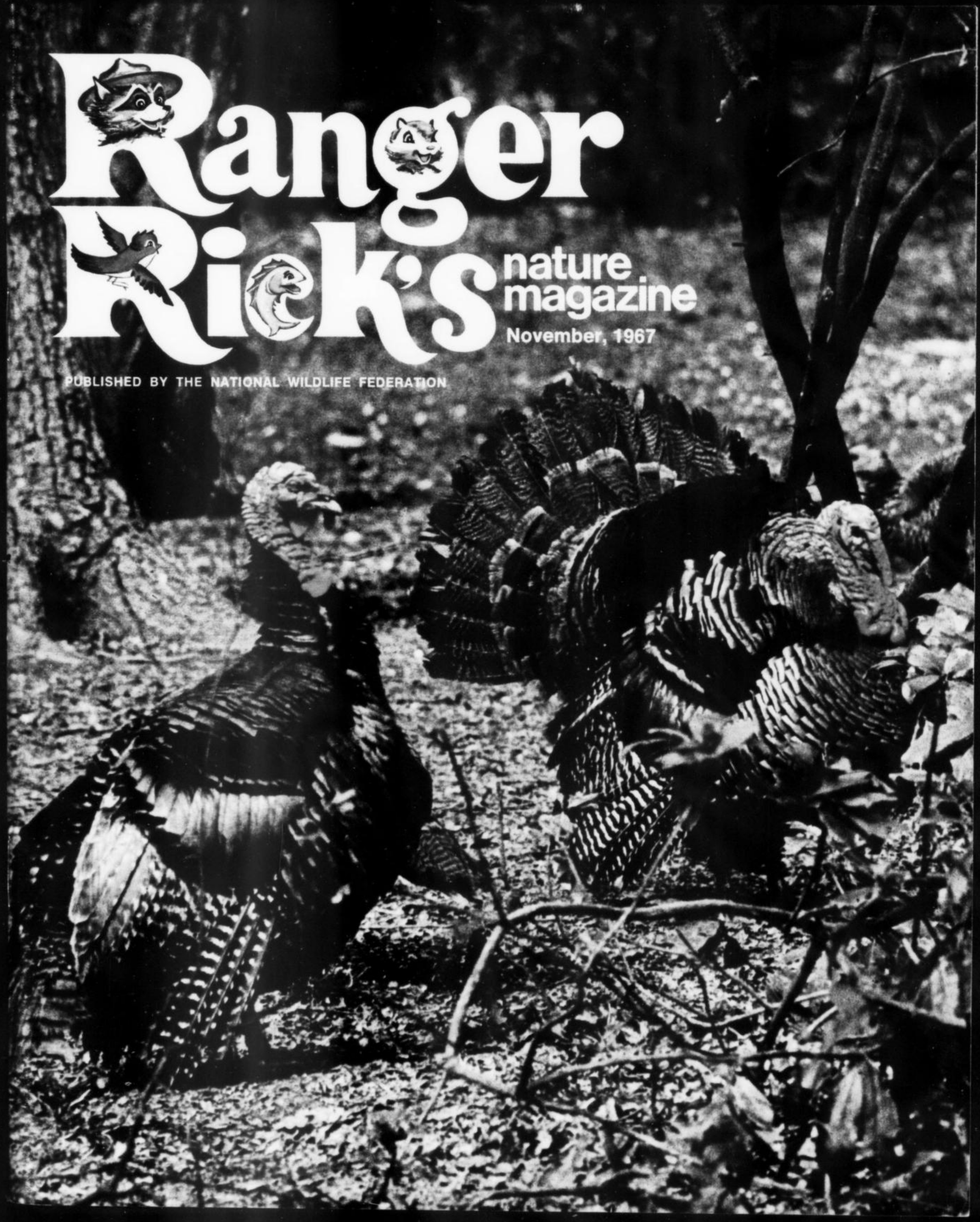


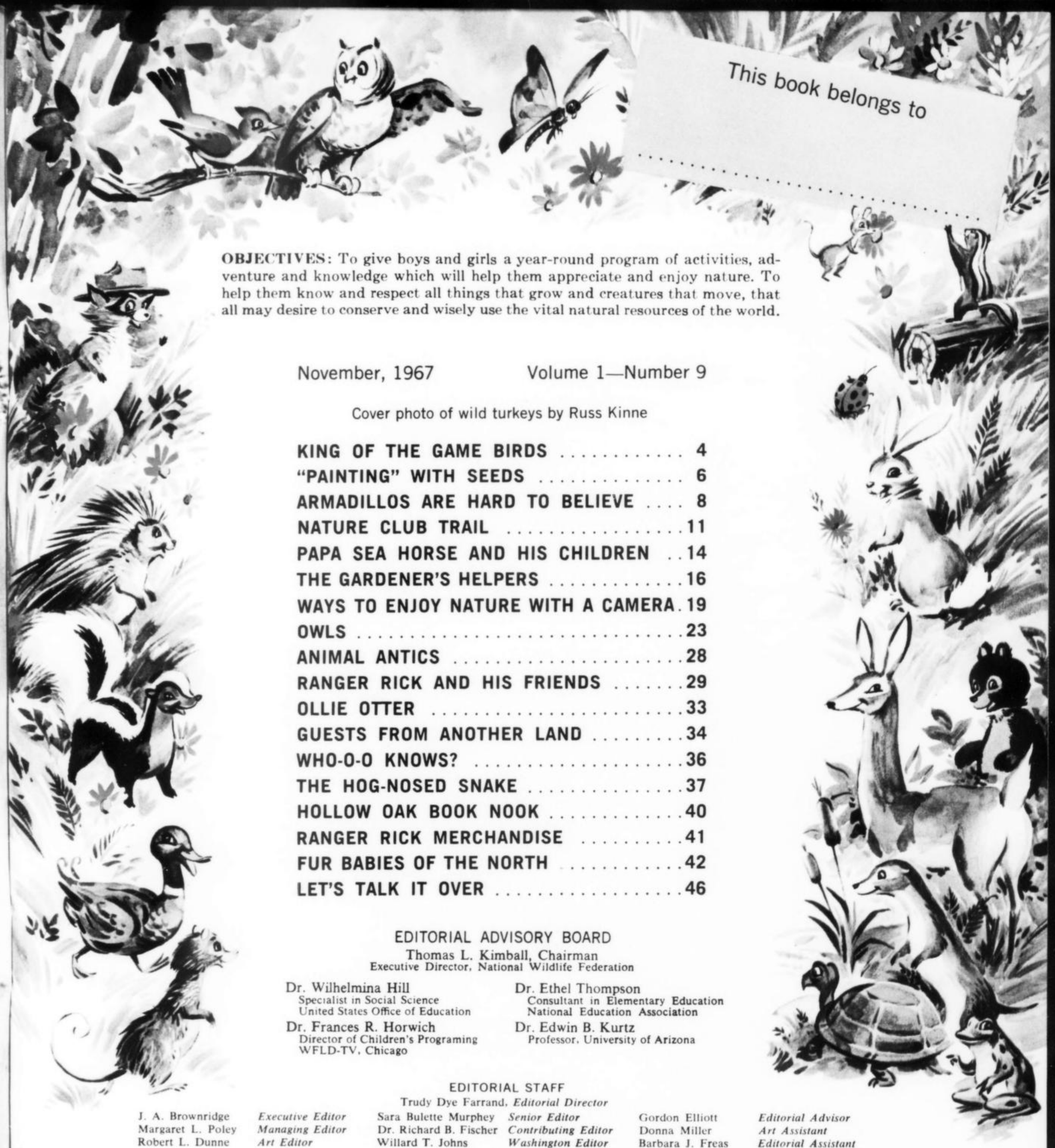
Photo by D. S. McPeek

I saw a pert little junco
Under a tree on Thanksgiving Day,
And I thought, if he could tell us,
This is what he'd say:

"I'm thankful to be a junco,
I'm glad to enjoy the snow,
I'm glad for my warm soft feathers
That shield me when cold winds blow.

"I'm thankful for food I find to eat,
For my strong wings, and my nimble feet;
I'm just as glad as I can be
That I'm a junco. Lucky me!"

—Solveig Paulson Russell



This book belongs to

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OBJECTIVES: To give boys and girls a year-round program of activities, adventure and knowledge which will help them appreciate and enjoy nature. To help them know and respect all things that grow and creatures that move, that all may desire to conserve and wisely use the vital natural resources of the world.

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Cover photo of wild turkeys by Russ Kinne

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KING OF THE GAME BIRDS

by Byron W. Dalrymple

Try to imagine what the first Thanksgiving was like way back in 1621. The Pilgrims celebrated with great heaps of food. Much of it came from the forests around them, and roast wild turkey was the main course. There were so many wild turkeys in those days that as they flew from their roosts at daylight their wings made a roar like thunder. Later, the pioneers hunted these birds, which weighed from 15 to 20 pounds. Then they took them to market, where they could be bought for a penny a pound!

The Pilgrims had known domestic turkeys back home in England, but they had no idea the turkeys had come from North America years earlier. The Aztec Indians in Mexico tamed their wild turkeys. The Spanish conquerors took some back to Spain. By the mid-1500's tame turkeys had reached England. Meanwhile the

Photos by H. S. Blanton, Jr., Byron Dalrymple

guinea fowl had also reached England, coming from Africa to Europe by way of Turkey. It was sometimes called "turkey," and the bird from Mexico was confused with it. That is how this big North American bird actually got its name from this far-away land.

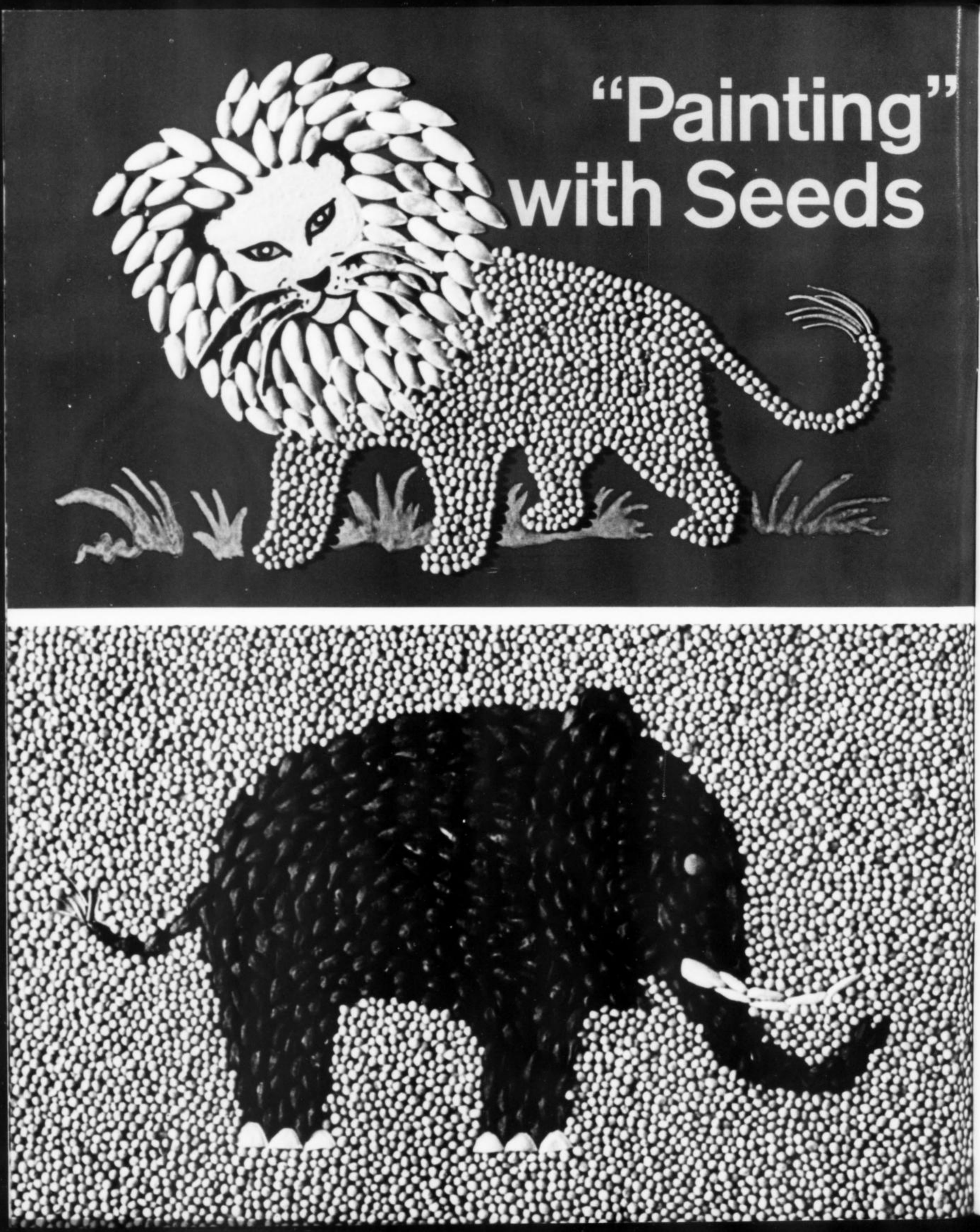
Four kinds of wild turkeys could be found over most of the United States: the Eastern, Florida, Rio Grande and Merriam's or mountain turkey. As time passed, the forests where the eastern turkeys lived were cut. Their food, such as acorns, chestnuts and beechnuts, became scarce and soon there were very few turkeys left. Hunters, who called the wild turkey "King of the Game Birds," were alarmed. So were nature lovers.

About twenty-five years ago wildlife people started a big program to save the wild turkey. They soon learned that what turkeys needed most were large areas of unbroken forest lands. Wild turkeys raised in pens either became tame or did not survive long when they were put back in the wild. So this effort to save wild turkeys didn't work. Bands of wild turkeys that had been trapped were placed in 3000 to 10,000 acre areas of wild lands where proper food and water were available. Here they did very well.

Today wild turkeys are hunted in 33 states. Several of the other states have them too but not enough to allow hunting. This is one of the great conservation stories of our generation. The Pilgrims would have been proud of us for having saved the symbol of Thanksgiving from being destroyed.

The End

"Painting" with Seeds



Story and pictures by Tina and Manning Lee

Seed painting is easy to do and fun too! To make the pictures shown on these pages, or to make up some of your own, you will need these supplies: cardboard, colored paper or cloth for backgrounds, poster paint, paintbrush, glue, a few toothpicks and seeds of various sizes, shapes and colors. For areas where you may not want to use seeds, you can color in with paint or crayons.

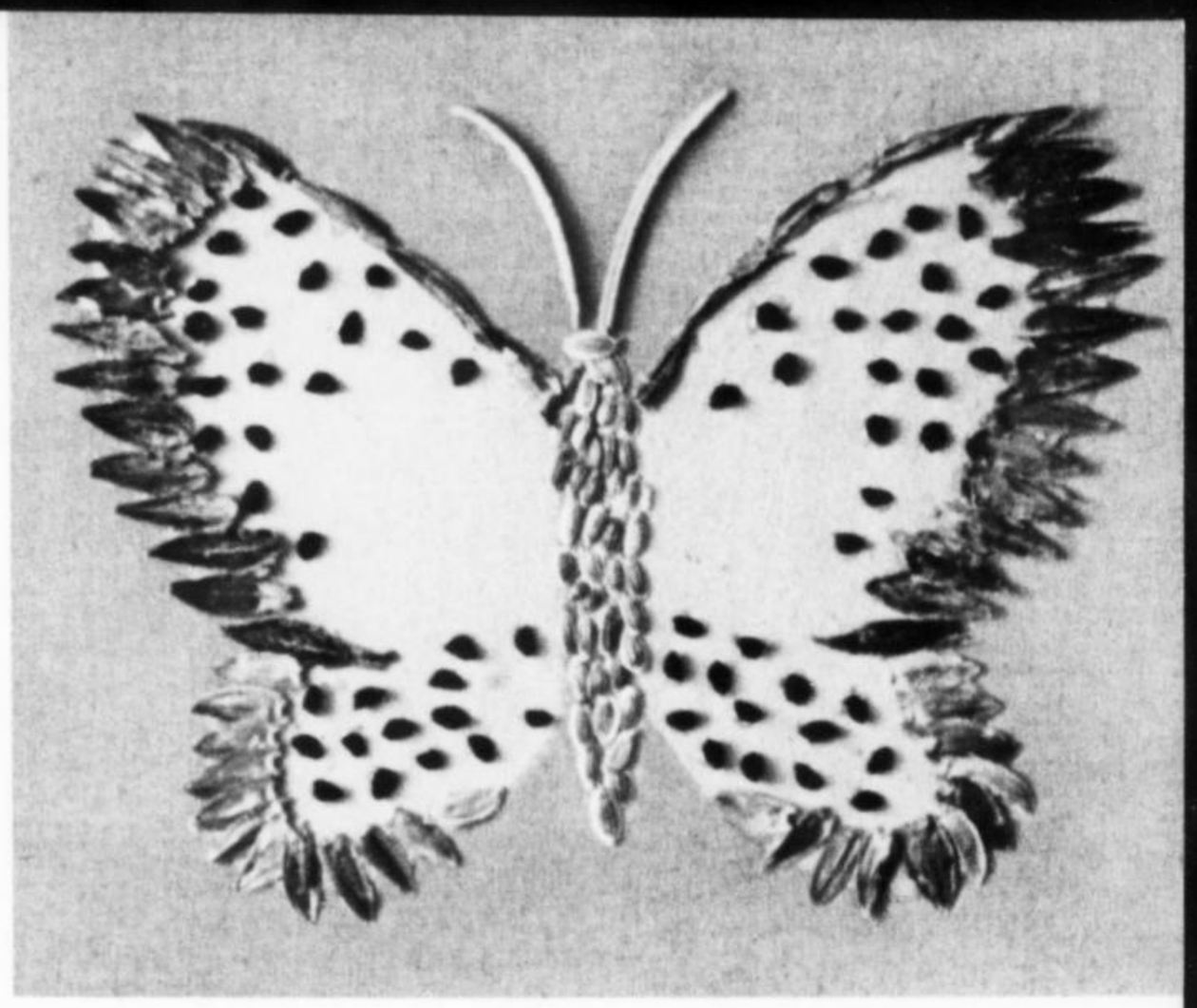
Collecting the seeds is part of the fun, and if you have a garden or live in a place where things grow you will find seeds in dried flowers, in pods and in fruits.

When a flower is left on the stem its center usually dries into seeds. This is called "going to seed." Cut the dry flower and carefully shake the seeds onto a piece of paper. In some flowers, such as marigolds, the seeds are fastened firmly, so you must pull them off. Pods must be opened to remove the seeds.

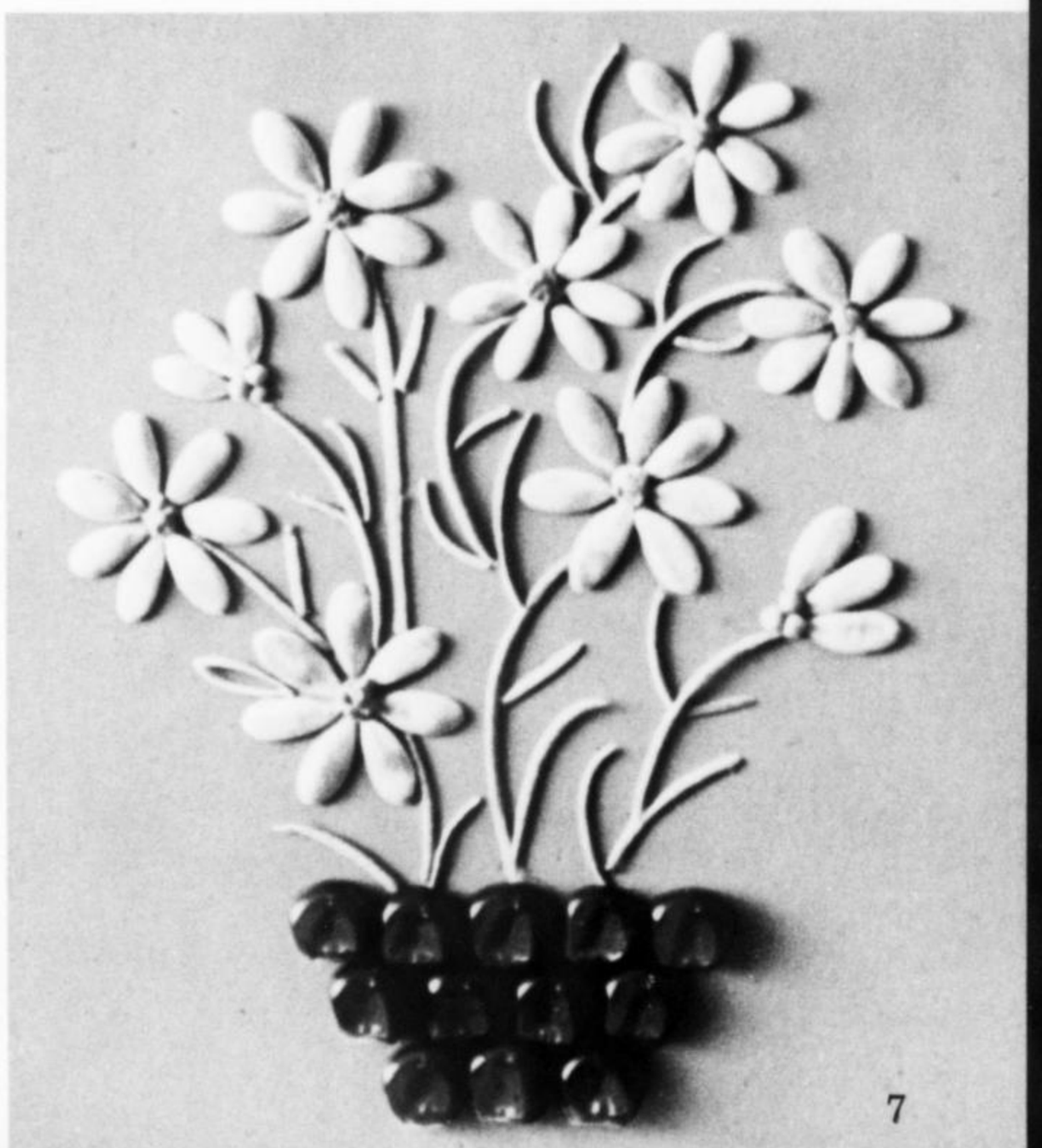
Use the dried seeds from your Halloween jack-o'-lantern if you still have it, and brightly colored Indian corn kernels. Cantaloupe and watermelon seeds are very useful, and so are dried beans, lentils, rice, grapefruit, lemon, mustard, cloves, peppercorns and sesame. In the garden-supply or hardware store you can find many different kinds of seeds.

Draw your picture lightly on cardboard and plan which seeds to use in each area. Now comes the fun of fastening them into place. Dab each seed with a bit of glue and press it in place. When using small seeds it is easier to spread glue over the area to be covered and, while it is still wet, press the seeds firmly onto it.

If you want a pretty background, cover the cardboard with a piece of colored cloth or paper before you start the drawing. Paint the seeds after they have been glued into place. *The End*



Seeds Used In The Pictures:
ELEPHANT. Background—mustard, Eye—sweetpea, Body—morning glory, Other seeds—pumpkin, marjoram, sunflower. LION. Mane—cantaloupe, Body—mustard, Whiskers and Tail—marjoram. BUTTERFLY. Body—dill and marjoram, Wings—zinnia and leek on painted background. BOUQUET. Flowers—beet and cantaloupe, Foliage—marjoram, Bowl—red corn.



armadillos

Photo by Leonard Lee Rue III

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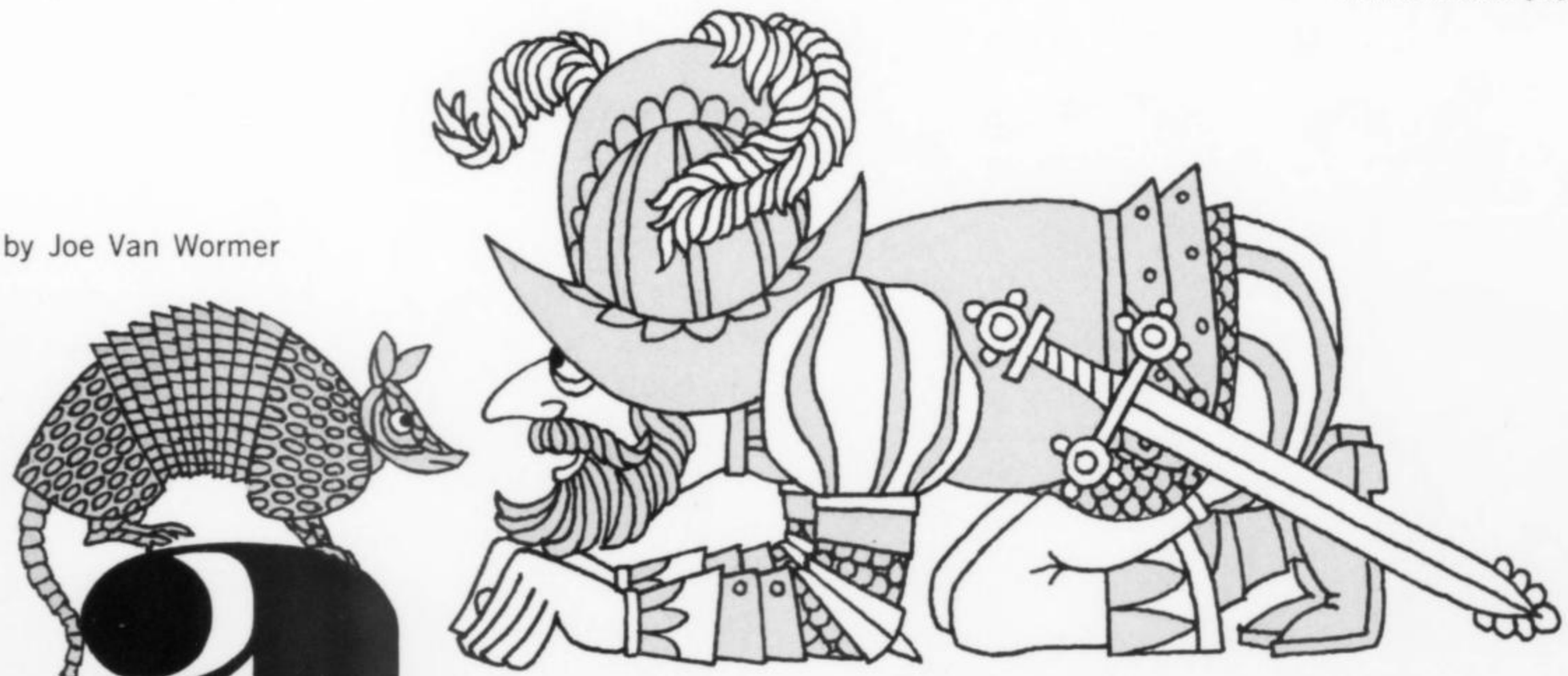
by Joe Van Wormer



Armadillos are hard to believe

The armadillo is a strange-looking animal indeed. Even after you have seen one, it is hard to believe. The first thing you would notice is its tough shell-like covering.

The Spanish conquerors of Mexico saw that the hard shell of the animal was very much like the protective armor that they wore. So they named him *armadillo* (ar-ma-DIL-lo), which means "little fellow in armor."

We didn't have any armadillos in this country until about a hundred years ago when some swam across the Rio Grande River between Mexico and Texas. They have spread into many states including New Mexico, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi and Florida.

We still have only *one* kind of armadillo in the United States. It is about the size of a large housecat and is called the *nine-banded* armadillo because of the nine flexible bands which connect the front and rear parts of its shell. There are many kinds in Central and South America which vary in size from a 120-pound giant to a tiny pink one, only six inches long.

The armadillo's shell is in two parts which cover the front shoulders and the hips in the rear. They are joined by rings of very thick, tough hide that slide together like a telescope. This makes the shell flexible (not stiff like a turtle's shell).

There is a piece of bony armor over the forehead which also protects the eyes and the long snout. Its ears are shaped like those of a mule and feel like fine, pebbled leather. Its eyes are small and dark. The tip of its nose is usually pink, but the rest of it is a dark brown or yellow-white.

An armadillo's tail makes up half of its three-foot length. The tail has its own covering of fourteen rings that taper away from the body like stacked ice cream cones! The tail doesn't seem to have much use except to hold up the animal when it sits down, just as a kangaroo's tail does.

If an armadillo were thrown into a lake it would sink to the bottom like a rock because of its heavy shell. To cross a small stream it just walks across on the bottom. But to go across a larger stream, it takes several big gulps of air. This air is swal-

Please turn the page

lowed and held in the stomach and intestines, which makes the armadillo float. Then, with its nose stuck up above the surface of the water for a breathing tube, the armadillo paddles to the other side.

When hunting for food, the armadillo must depend on its very keen sense of smell because it cannot see or hear very well. It eats insects such as fire ants, roaches, grasshoppers, termites and sugar cane borers. It takes a lot of insects to fill an adult armadillo. It has been known to eat 40,000 termites at a single meal. It also eats scorpions, tarantulas, spiders, earthworms and land snails.

Drawings by Arthur Wallower

An armadillo finds its food by rooting around among leaves and loose topsoil. It makes lots of noisy grunts and snorts. It has only a few peg-shaped teeth in the back of its mouth, but it doesn't really need any more for what it eats.

It doesn't need teeth to defend itself either. Coyotes are one of the few natural enemies it has. They can flip it over and attack its soft belly. If a coyote comes near, the armadillo runs for the nearest brush pile or burrows quickly into the earth like a soldier making a foxhole. It has very strong claws for digging.

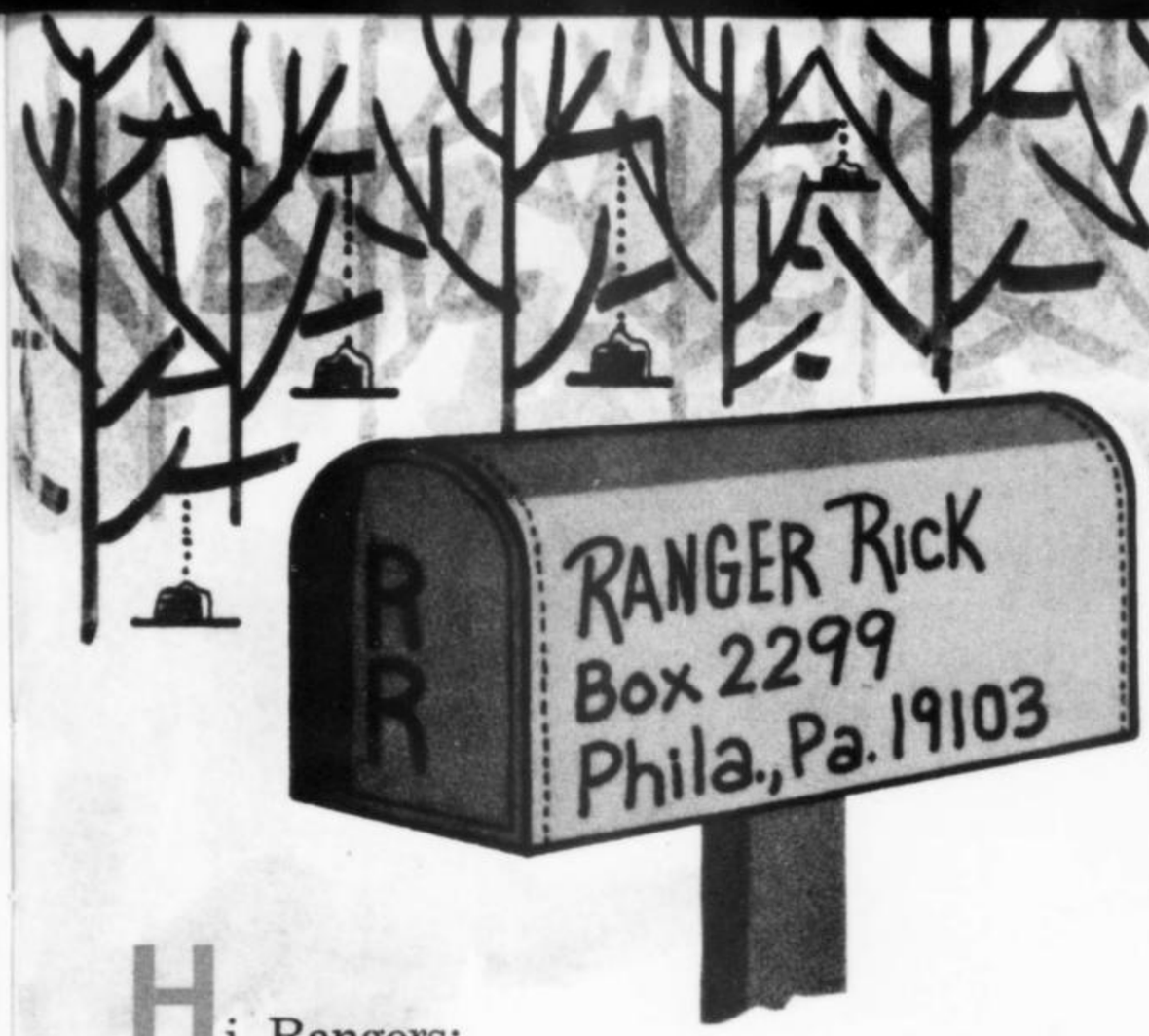
The armadillo pays very little attention to other animals, but it does seem to like to be around other armadillos. Fifty of them may be seen feeding together.

It seems to be easier for them to dig a new burrow than to find an old one. About the only time an armadillo uses the same burrow for a long time is when the young ones are born. This is usually in March. The burrow tunnel may be twenty-five feet long with an enlarged room or two and a nest of grass or leaves.

Baby armadillos are born with their eyes open. There are usually four identical babies, either all males or all females. There will never be some of each. Once in a while there may be eight babies, but they will also be all males or all females.

Newborn armadillos have soft shells which soon harden. The babies are nursed by their mother for about two months. They go outside with the mother during this time for lessons in catching insects.

Armadillos are helpful to man because they destroy great numbers of harmful insect pests. Sometimes one may dig up some flowers or vegetables in a garden, but this is really a small thing when you consider all the good it does. *The End*



ALONG THE NATURE CLUB TRAIL WITH RANGER RICK

Hi, Rangers:

From Ranger Krista Clark, age 7½, of Ohio, comes a *haiku* that says just about everything there is to say about November. Here it is:

Nature's traffic ways
Are filled with animals
Getting ready for winter.

And that gives me an idea for a good Nature Club or family project for right now—a Holiday Decoration Hike. In fields and along roadsides, look for interesting dried weeds. Queen Anne's lace flowerheads have curled up into tiny brown "birds' nests" by now and on wild asters are dozens of tiny silver stars. Look in the woods for acorns, nuts and pine cones native to your part of the country. In the Southeast gather sweetgum balls. In the Southwest look for tumbleweeds. If you live near the ocean collect shells and driftwood.

In our December issue we are going to give you eight pages of "Holiday Decorations From All Outdoors," using materials native to different parts of the country. Many of the greens, berries and vines you will need will not have to be gathered until you are ready to use them. But November is the ideal time for collecting the things mentioned in the paragraph before this one. Keep them in a cool, dry place till they are needed.

How are you coming along with organizing Official Branches of Ranger Rick's Nature Club? You can get an INFORMATION KIT on How to Start an Official Branch by writing to me at P.O. Box 2299, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103.

Have a happy Thanksgiving! And don't forget to count the blessings that are in

Ranger Rick's Pledge

I give my pledge as a member of
RANGER RICK'S NATURE CLUB

To use my eyes to see the beauty of all outdoors.

To train my mind to learn the importance of nature.

To use my hands to help protect our soil, water, woods and wildlife.

And, by my good example, to show others how to respect, properly use and enjoy our natural resources.

RANGER RICK

Rangers Are Ready for Winter Birds

Last winter we talked about feeding the birds that stay with us in winter. You sent us many fine letters and snapshots telling of your bird-feeding adventures. We were glad so many of you said, "Once you start feeding birds be sure to keep it up all winter." Here are some of the best ideas we received:

Homemade Grit and Chickadee Pudding: Last winter you advised that birds must have grit to digest their food. Here is a do-it-yourself way of getting excellent grit at no cost. Wash empty eggshells, dry them out and crush them.

You may also be interested in the following recipe for Chickadee Pudding. I mix up a big bowl of stale cake, bread or doughnuts, add a little flour, sugar and cornmeal, put in some wild birdseeds, peanut butter, apples chopped fine, and squash or melon seeds, and a few shelled nuts and raisins. Then I melt plenty of bacon fat and while it is hot, I pour it over the mixture, stirring well. This goes into disposable aluminum pie plates and is cooled in the refrigerator. I use the "pudding" as needed by putting it on pine cones or smearing it on pieces of bark. My seven-year-old son, Thomas, has asked me to send you these ideas, as he enjoys doing all this with me for the birds.

Janet Bray, Maryland

Thomas Peller, Age 8, Minnesota, filling a feeder made from a plastic jug by his 9-year-old brother.

Broom-Handle Feeder: I made a bird feeder out of a detergent bottle, broom handle, flat piece of wood, and string. I cut a hole in the side of the bottle and filled it with suet. A flat piece of wood was tied at the bottom for a perch. The bottle was screwed into a threaded broom handle which was pushed into the ground. The birds enjoyed it. (See Picture 2.)

Wendy Morphew, Age 8, Arizona

"Just for Fun" Food: I thought you might like to know that we put in our bird feeder—just for fun—some left-over chicken croquettes. The bluejays ate four in one morning! Other things our birds have liked are sunflower seeds, a bowl of crumbled bread, suet, and cooked rice. Besides the bluejays, the others that came were chickadees, of course, juncoes, evening grosbeaks, nuthatches and a field sparrow, also one each of downy and hairy woodpeckers.

Sims McGrath, Jr., Age 9, Massachusetts

Feeder Tray: I built a feeder all by myself. I made it of a flat piece of wood and put sides on so the feed would not fall off. And I put dowel sticks in holes I drilled to hold doughnuts. (See Picture 3.)

Gregg Wolper, Age 6, Illinois

Bleach-Jug Feeder: I helped my mummy make a bird feeder for our back yard. Very carefully we washed out an old plastic bleach jug. (A half gallon plastic milk bottle would work just as well.)

Drawing by Taylor Oughton

We cut out the sides, leaving strips to hold the bottom on. We tied a string to the handle and then to a tree branch. We filled it with wild birdseed and bacon fat to keep it in. That way the seed doesn't blow away if it is windy. We have several feeders and many different kinds of winter birds. My mother wrote this letter for me. (See Picture 1.) *Stephen S. Chase, Age 3, New Hampshire*

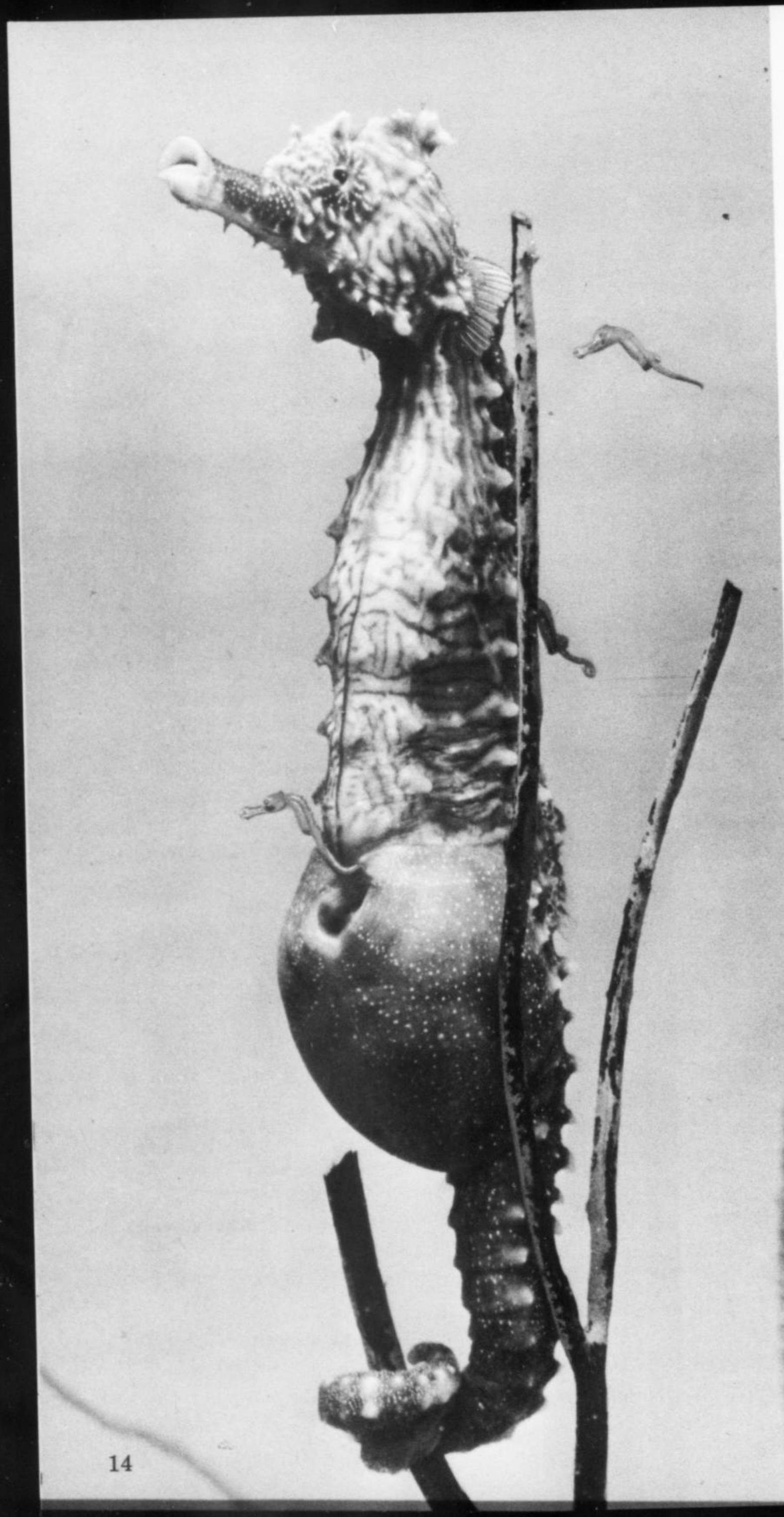
In your December magazine, LOOK FOR your entry blank in the 2nd Annual Ranger Rick Nature Club Contest. TRY FOR a thousand-dollar college scholarship, a trip to Houston, Texas and 125 other prizes. Good luck!

"We Want to Know"

Dear Ranger Rick:

We want to know very much about wildlife and nature. Please send us some information. *Rangers Ricky Lynn, Kim and Tracy Erway, Wisconsin*

NOTE From Ranger Rick: I get many letters like this and hope this answer will do for all of them. We *do* aim to tell you "very much about wildlife and nature," but it has to be done bit by bit as the months go by. Also, on The Hollow Oak Book Nook page you can find books that tell even more about the subjects we have in our magazine. Also, you can get a kit which has a lot of booklets, leaflets, and other information about conservation and wildlife by writing Educational Servicing, National Wildlife Federation, 1412 16th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. This kit is free and even contains samples of the Federation's colorful wildlife conservation stamps which you can use to illustrate your reports or to decorate your letters.



PAPA SEA HORSE

and his children

by J. Markson

See the three tiny sea horses in this photograph? They are not swimming, but simply drifting with the movement of the sea. They are newly born sea horses that have come out of their father's pouch. At first, they float around in any position. But when they are a few minutes old, they are upright and swimming.

Perhaps you wonder: Where is the baby sea horses' mother? Well, the female and the male sea horses look very much alike. They both have a large abdomen with a slit in it. Sometimes when a pair of male and female sea horses are swimming about together, they swim close to each other, faces touching, and the female pours about two hundred eggs through the slit of her abdomen into the slit of his. After she lays her eggs, her work is done. She swims away and would never know her young if she should see them.

The male sea horse carries the eggs in his pouch, which is now closed. He fertilizes the eggs and they begin to grow inside a shell-like covering. The pouch stretches to make room for the eggs. In

Photo courtesy of
Marineland of Florida

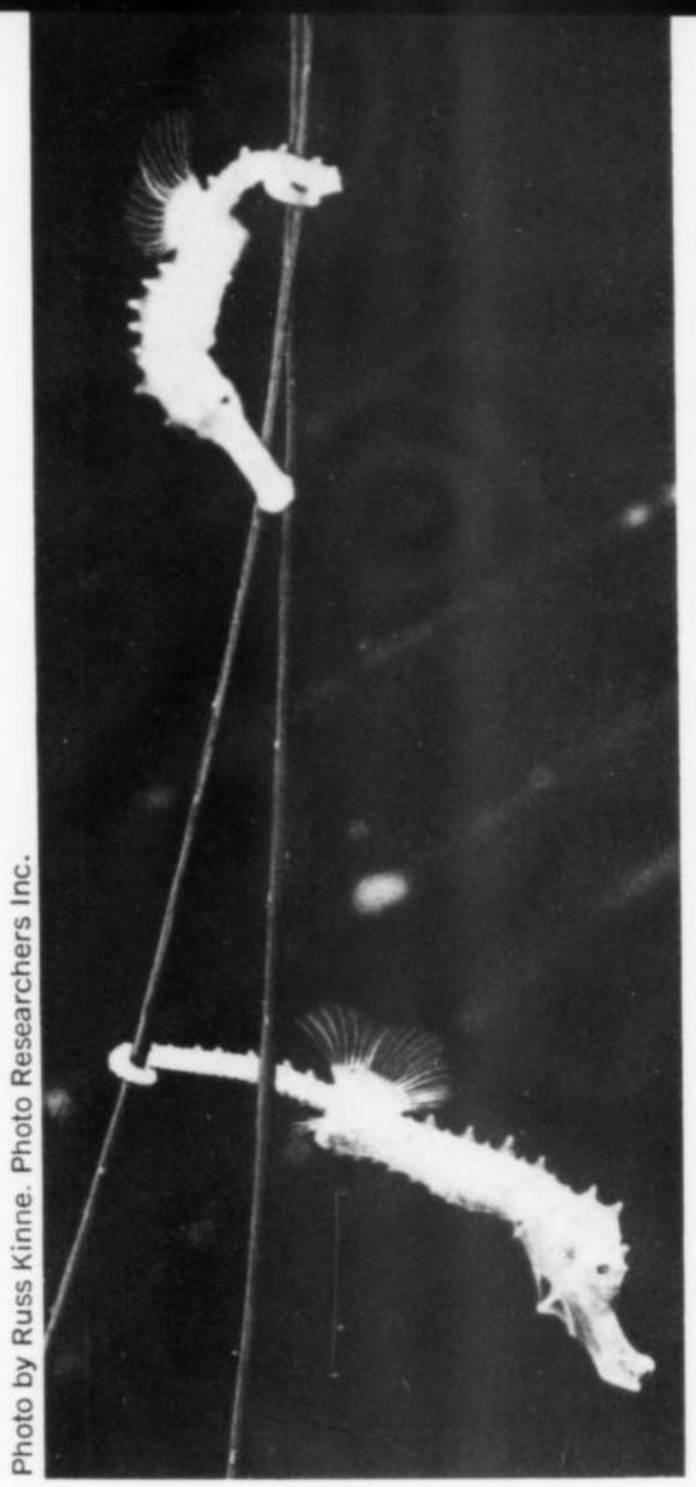


Photo by Russ Kinne. Photo Researchers Inc.

about 45 days, when the babies are ready to be born, the father curls his tail around a piece of coral or the stem of a water plant to anchor himself during their birth. The slit in his pouch becomes a rounded opening.

Using his egg tooth, each baby sea horse pecks open his covering and squirms about until he reaches the pouch opening. He pops out. Then comes another and another. Some come head first, some tail first. There may be a hundred or more of them. In the picture you can see one baby only part way out of the father's abdominal opening. When all are born, the father's pouch closes. He does not have anything more to do with his young. They are on their own. They don't need him or their mother now.

The newborn sea horses glide about looking for something to eat. Their little black beady eyes turn this way and that. Sea horses' eyes move in different directions at the same time. One eye can look up while the other eye may be looking down. Right now these tiny young ones have snouts like little pug noses. But slits in the snouts enable the baby sea horses to suck in microscopic plants and animals. And they can anchor themselves to a piece of coral or the stem of a plant with their *prehensile* (pre-HEN-sil) tails just as their father does. A prehensile tail is one that is used to grab onto something or to wrap around it.

In a few months these sea horses will look like their father and mother and will be from three to six inches in length. Their snouts will become longer and have a flap at the outer end. They will open the flap to snap up tiny baby fish, larvae and small shrimp. They swallow food whole because they have no teeth. Since sea horses are a kind of fish, they have gills for breathing. Their one important fin is in the middle of the back. When this is vibrated very rapidly the sea horse is pushed swiftly through the water.

Sea horses are quite common in the warm coastal waters of our country. They vary in color from green to brown to pink, or their color changes, as do chameleons, depending upon the temperature of the water and the color of the coral or seaweed they rest upon.

If you go hunting for sea horses, be sure to keep your eyes open. You cannot move your eyes to look up, down, forward or back at the same time as the sea horse does. But you might be able to see one of these interesting fish.

The End

Photo courtesy of New York Zoological Society

by Bebe Miles

THE GARDENER'S HELPERS

Drawing by
Margaret Estey

Some insects are our good friends. Instead of biting us or eating our food and flowers, they work for us. The *mantid*, one of the largest and strangest-looking insects, is a real garden helper. It is sometimes called *praying mantis*.

You may have thought that the mantid got its name from its hunting activity. "Preying" and "praying" sound the same, but look up their meanings in your dictionary. Then remember how the mantid looks as it waits for its dinner. It sits up and folds its front legs like someone clasping his hands in prayer. Look at the picture on the opposite page. The mantid is really getting set to spring on an insect. The ancient Greeks thought the mantid was praying and that it had magic powers. They named it mantid, which means "prophet."

During its hungry lifetime—which lasts only from spring until fall—a mantid eats thousands of insect pests. It may even turn cannibal. After mating, the female mantid sometimes eats her husband, just as spiders do.

Before winter's cold weather brings the female's life to an end, she lays her eggs in a froth which hardens into a light brown mass almost the size of a walnut. She usually attaches it to a plant stem or small branch where the eggs stay safe inside until warm spring weather. Then the tiny, hungry mantids swarm out of the egg case and quickly start their hunt for food. Quickly they scatter in all directions, for sometimes the strongest mantids make a meal of their weaker brothers and sisters.

November is the best time to look for mantid egg cases after the leaves have dropped from trees and bushes. Smart gardeners buy or collect these cases in the fall to start a mantid population around their property.

Please turn the page

One of the nicest Christmas presents for folks who love their garden is a mantid egg case. You could give one to your favorite gardener or perhaps to your mother or dad, another relative, or a friend or neighbor.

When you find a case, break off several inches of the twig it is on and tie this to a bush in the garden if you plan to keep it yourself. If it is to be a Christmas present store it in a cool place—not inside the house.

One fall, some years ago, my children collected mantid cases for me. That one search was all we ever needed. Our gardens had a lot of flowers to attract bugs and we often found ten or twelve full-grown mantids. Each one was living in a different part of the garden when we looked for them in September.

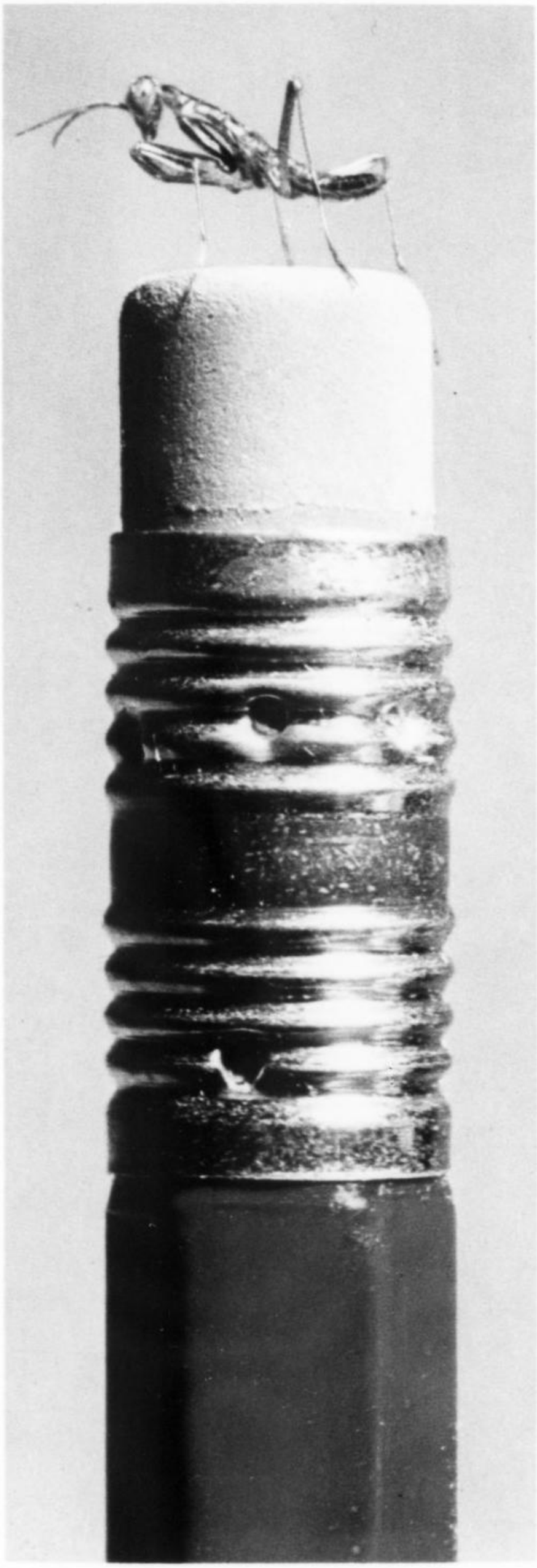
Next September you might find them in your garden too if you collect some mantid cases now. You'll need sharp eyes to see the adult mantid even though it often grows to be four inches long. Its greenish-brown color blends with the leaves where it waits for its prey. Look wherever there is a bush or flower still in bloom. If you should find several loose butterfly wings on the ground you can be almost sure a mantid is close by.

Someday when you have a chance to sit and watch a mantid you will see that it sways with the wind just like a leaf. Only its head moves. It can turn its head around almost as far as you can turn yours. But just let a bug come close! Like a tiger, the mantid pounces. Then it holds its prey in big, spiny front claws and eats everything but the wings and hard leg parts.

We do not like to spray poisonous insecticides (bug killers) on our plants because we have lots of birds which might be harmed. We depend on our mantids to help get rid of harmful insects in our garden. Just imagine how many bugs a mantid must eat in one summer to grow so big. The only thing that keeps it from being a perfect garden helper is that the mantid eats bees.

The End

Tiny new mantid on a pencil top.



Photos pages 17 and 18 by Richard B. Fischer

ways to enjoy nature with a camera

Story and photographs by
Peggy and Norman Fisher

Have you ever found a rock that you liked but couldn't take home because it was too big? Or the park wouldn't let you take anything so you couldn't even get a chip.

Maybe your family makes a vacation scrapbook. Perhaps you would like to add your own nature pictures of things that you can't find around home.

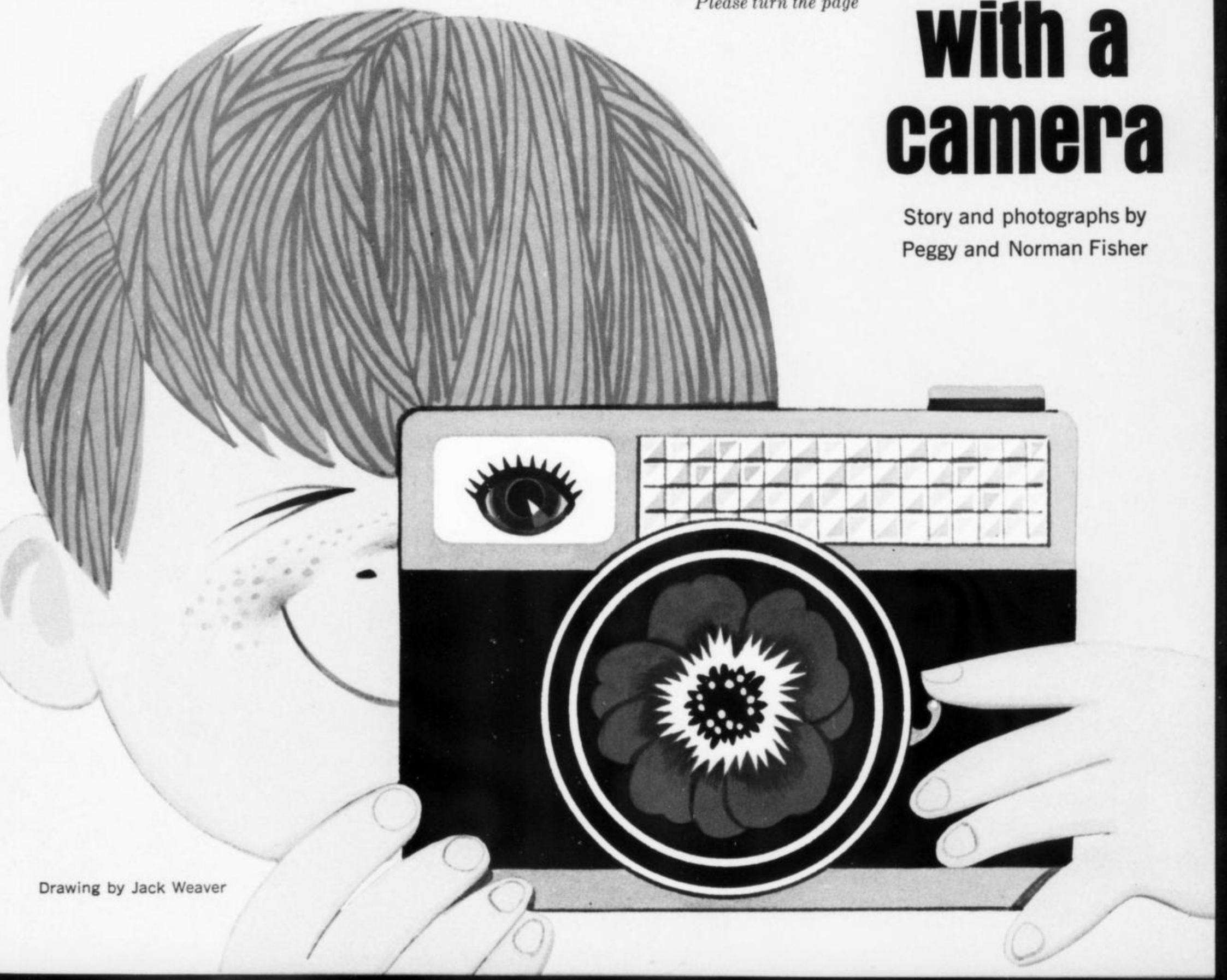
You might like a picture record of your favorite birds or animals at the zoo . . . or of unusual things the weather does such as blowing down trees, causing floods or coating trees with ice.

If you are interested in the weather, you could make your own collection showing different kinds of clouds.

Not everyone is an artist and can draw what he sees. If this is true of you, then your camera will help you to keep pictures of the things you want to remember.

You can have a lot of fun with a camera. The pictures on these pages may give you some ideas to help you get started. You don't need a big camera or one that costs a lot. One that you work by just pressing a button or lever is best for a beginner. All the pictures used in this story were taken with a simple camera—no fussing with focus, lens opening or shutter speed.

Please turn the page



Drawing by Jack Weaver

Photos pages 17 and 18 by Richard B. Fischer

1.

2.

3.

4.

ROCKS

1. Water, cold, heat and the crust of growing plants wear down rocks and put grooves in them. You can show these changes that take place in rocks to your friends and classmates.

2. This crumbly rock cliff overlooks stones carried by water or glaciers from many other places.

TREES

3. Trees make good pictures at any time of the year. In spring, you can photograph them when they have flowers, like these cherry trees in blossom.

4. Some trees are easy to tell by their shape, like these weeping willows. Take pictures of elms because many of them are dying from a disease and becoming scarce.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

DIFFERENT SEASONS

9. & 10. You are learning a number of ways to have fun taking pictures of the same thing or scene. You could also take pictures of the same scene but in different seasons. You could try pictures like this in spring and summer too.

PLACES WHERE YOU FIND THINGS

11. & 12. If you bring your teacher a rock or a plant she might ask, "Where did you find it?" A picture of the area would help you tell the answer. Also, write in a pocket notebook the date and name of the place where you found the thing. In these two pictures, the view looking down on the beach shows the general area where the stones in the other picture were found.

Please turn the page

5.

LEAVES

5. The leaves of some trees turn beautiful colors in the fall like this oak. You will soon be able to identify many different kinds of trees by studying your pictures.

TIME OF DAY

6.

6. Try the same scene at different times of day. Morning light is bluish and "colder" looking. **7.** The warm reddish picture was taken in late afternoon. You can still get good pictures if it isn't **too** late. Noontime is poor for picture taking because shadows are short. If light is very bright it makes things look "flat."

7.

HOW PLACES CHANGE

8.

8. This place was once all water. See how the plants are filling in the pond? Take an all-over view of a field each year and also closeup pictures (about 4 feet) of the more common plants. Then you will see how there are changes from year to year.

13.

14.

15.

16.

CHANGING WEATHER

13. Try taking pictures of the same scene in different kinds of weather. The stormy sky makes this scene exciting. **14.** Get your camera out quickly when you see anything like this because the mist may disappear in a few minutes. **15.** Weather makes a river or stream do many things. The cold made a crust of ice over this river and later broke into pieces.

CLOUDS AND REFLECTIONS

16. Clouds and reflections make interesting pictures and add life to pictures that otherwise would look empty or dull. **17.** After it rains, take your camera and look for unusual reflections of trees or clouds in puddles.

NATURE'S DESTRUCTION

18. Make a picture record of the harm that weather can do. The trees in this picture were hit by a tornado. **19.** Take a set of pictures of how man can harm nature. A fire left this mess.

WINTER

20. Winter pictures show what kinds of animals or birds come near your house from footprints in the snow. Fresh tracks are best because they lose their shape when the snow begins to melt.

The End

17.

18.

19.

20.

In the hush of darkness, an owl glides from perch to perch as noiselessly as a moth. It sees a little mouse and soars down swiftly to pounce upon it. It does not make a sound when it flies.

Most owls are more active at night, so they are called "nocturnal." Owls can see in the daylight, but not very well. At night they can see much better than we can. A few kinds of owls see well in the daytime. They can spot a hawk soaring so high in the sky that our eyes could not see it without the help of binoculars.

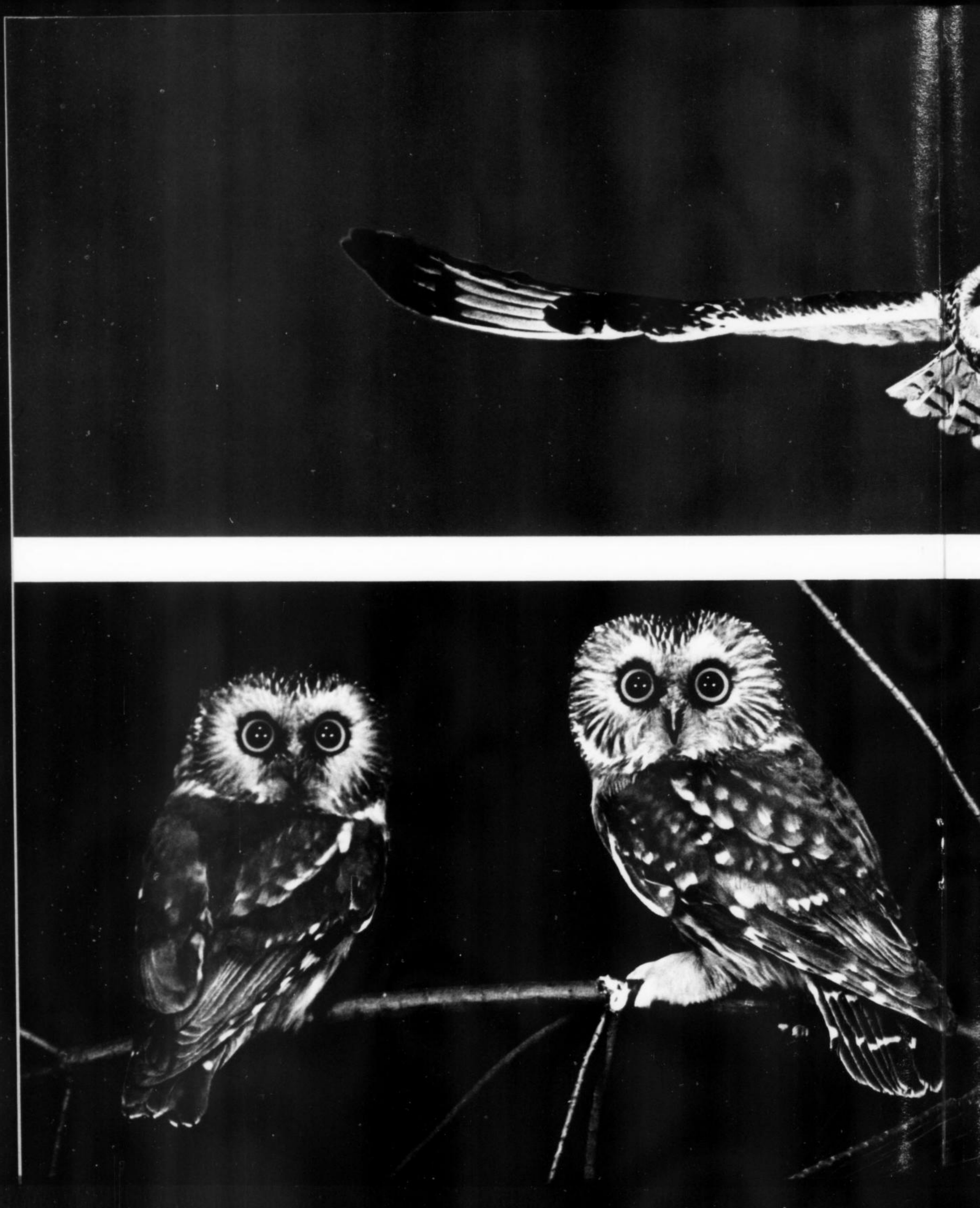
Owls are one of the few animals with eyeballs fixed firmly in their sockets. Since their eyeballs do not move, they have to turn their whole heads to look at things on either side. Sometimes it looks as though their heads would twist right off their bodies! An owl's head appears to be very large. It really isn't; it is covered with a lot of long, fluffy feathers.

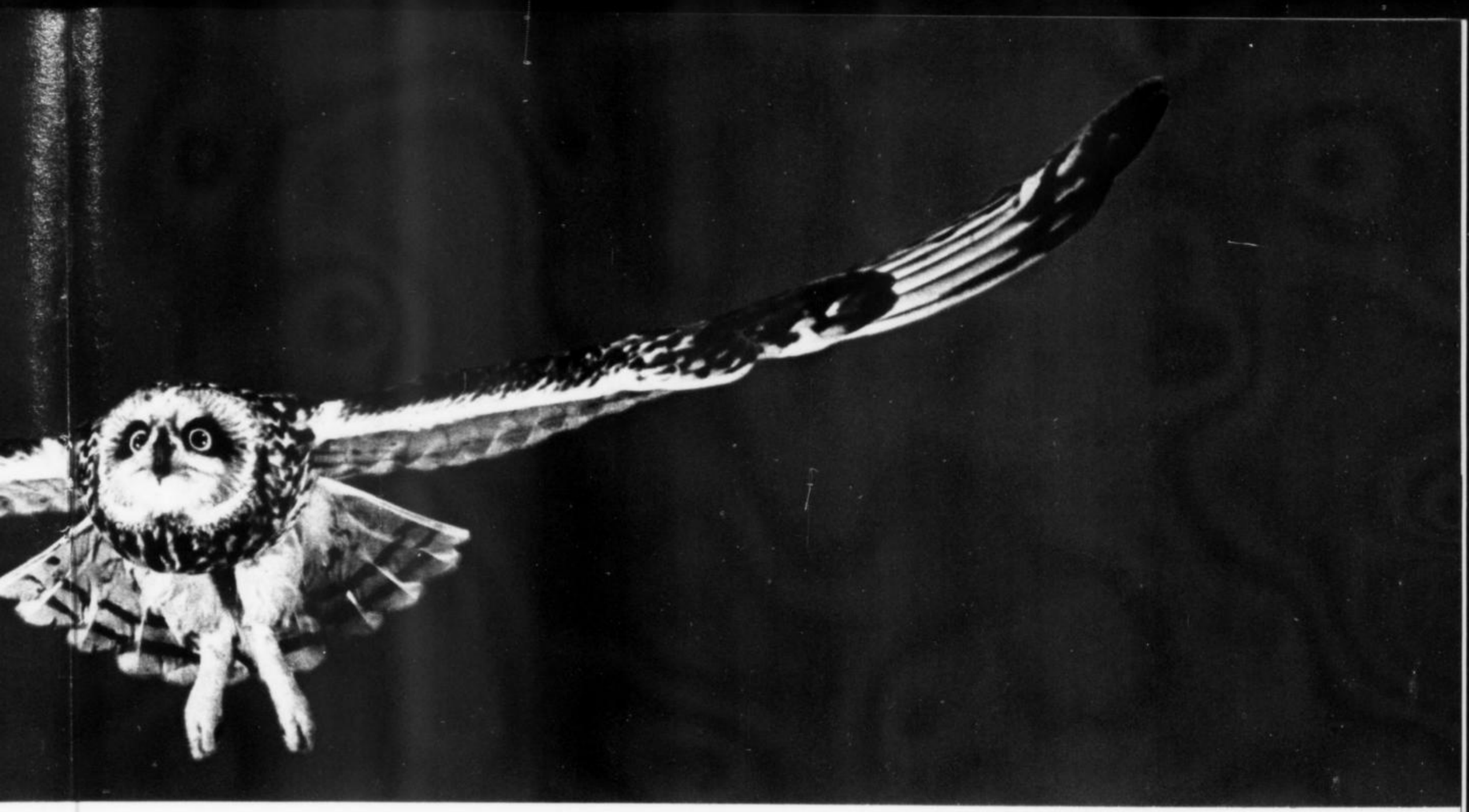
Owls are important in the balance of nature too. They prey on certain groups of smaller animals for food. They eat mice, birds, reptiles, fish and large insects.

Please turn the page

OWLS

Story and photos by Ron Austing





▲ *The SHORT-EARED OWL is usually seen in the late afternoon. It does most of its hunting while in flight, flying back and forth across country fields like a marsh hawk. The dark disks on his face make his yellow eyes seem very large.*

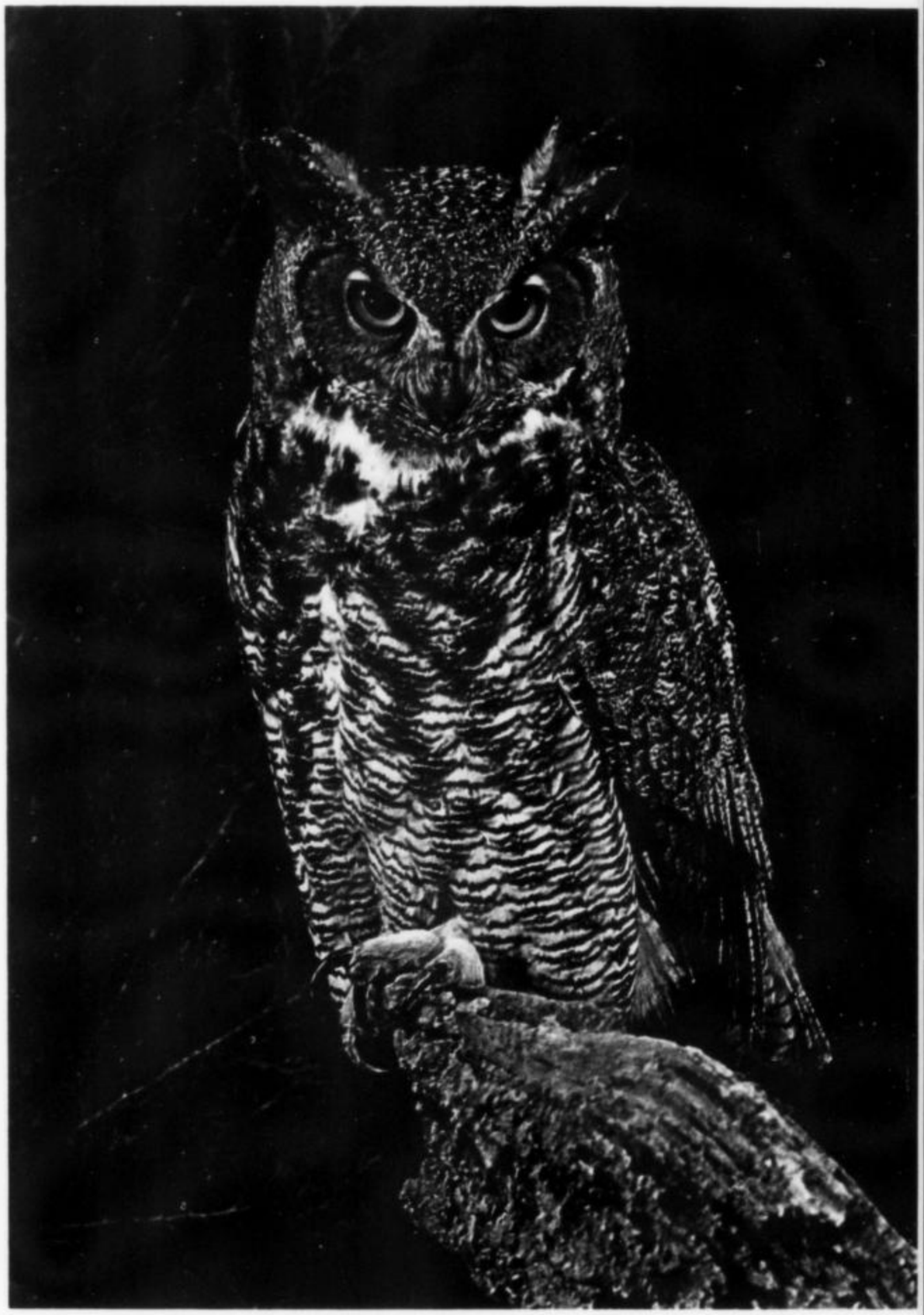
◀ *The SAW-WHET OWL is from Canada. It is a regular visitor to most of the United States in the winter. It takes very keen eyes to find a saw-whet roosting low in a young pine tree during the winter months. The saw-whet owl is only seven inches long. Look at a close up on Page 23.*

▶ *The LONG-EARED OWL is about the size of a crow. It mostly dines on meadow mice. Often you can see him "frozen" against the trunk of a dense tree. It makes its home in the nest of a crow, magpie or hawk.*

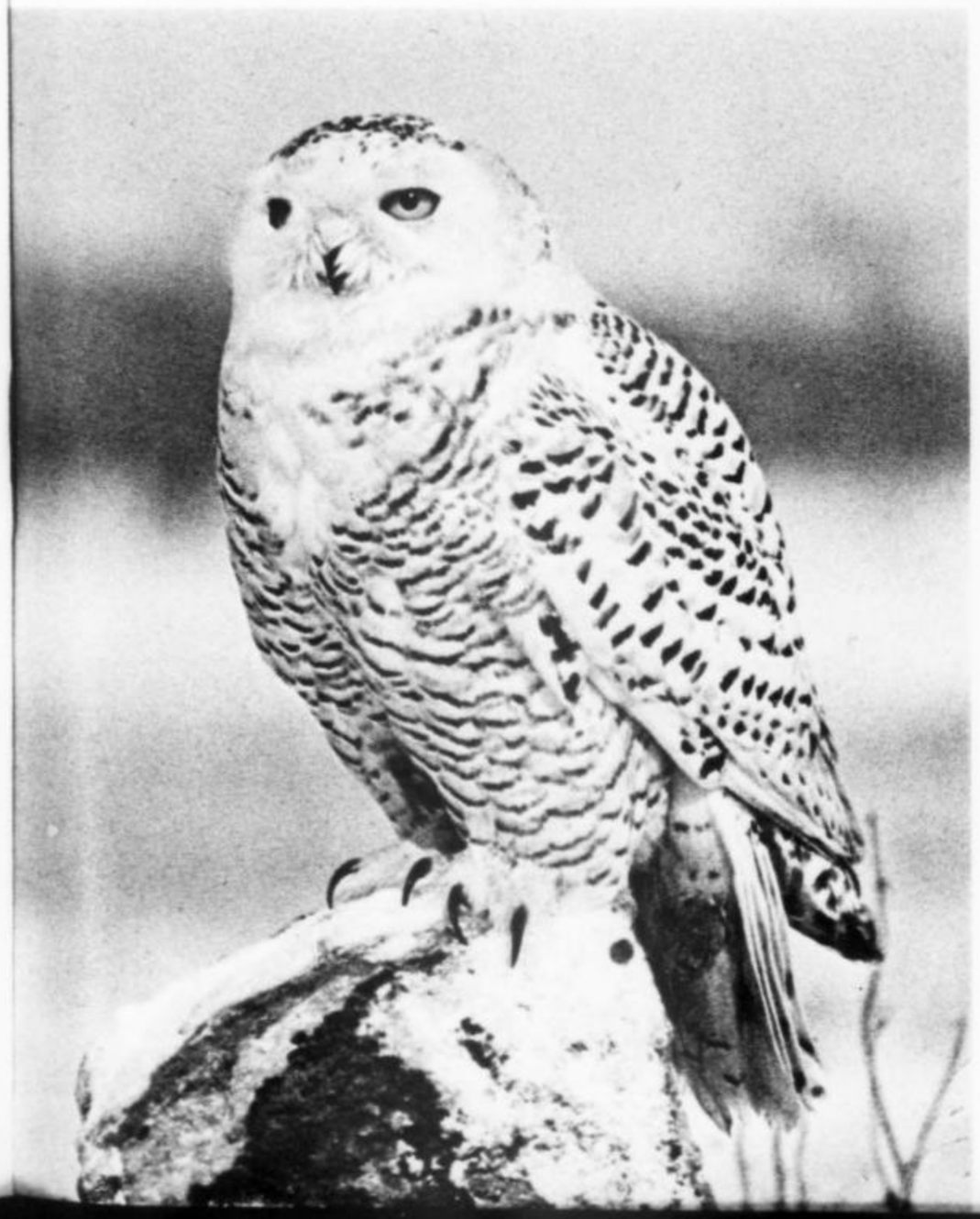
Please turn the page

◀ *The SCREECH OWL often nests right in our suburbs. Screech owls are quick to set up housekeeping in bird boxes. They especially like the wood duck's nesting box. Some people put up boxes just for owls.*

The GREAT HORNED OWL lives all over North America. It is one of our best-known owls. Horned owls are the most powerful of the owls and prey upon many animals. ▼



◀ *BARN OWLS have a white heart-shaped face, almost like a monkey's. They often roost and raise their young in barns. They are really night owls and are rarely seen in the daytime. The barn owl can find a mouse in total darkness by its hearing alone.*



◀ *The white SNOWY OWL is from the arctic tundra. Eskimos call him "Ookpikjuak." He sometimes goes about his business of hunting lemmings on such bright days that the sun reflecting off the snowy landscape would blind us.*

The End

Animal Antics

Twin Kids Have More Fun

Photos and captions of
Angora goats
by Grace Thompson

"Say, Charlie, what are those crazy lumps you're growing on your head?"

"Ouch, let's play another game, Chester. This one gives me an awful headache!"

"Chester, this is neat! You can see much better from this mountain. Come on up!"

Adventure **9**
Ringneck's
Victory

Ranger Rick And His Friends

by J. A. Brownridge

It was a crisp, cool Autumn evening. Ranger Rick was lazily dipping an ear of corn into the stream that ran past Farmer Brown's cornfield. Charlie Squirrel sat on a tree limb just over Rick's head nibbling on an acorn.

Ringneck pheasants paraded up and down the hand-picked rows of cornstalks feasting on kernels that had been left behind. The setting sun made the pheasants' feathers sparkle in all the lovely colors of the rainbow.

"Gee, that's a pretty sight," sighed Charlie. "We sure can be proud of our beautiful native birds."

"We sure can," laughed Rick. "But that bird you've been admiring isn't a native bird at all."

"Oh, come on, Rick," snapped Charlie, "you're just kidding me. Those pheasants have always been here."

"No, I'm not kidding," Rick insisted. "It's not often that wildlife can be moved from one continent to another. In fact, some wildlife should not be moved. They are used to the food and the weather in one place and would die if their new home was different."

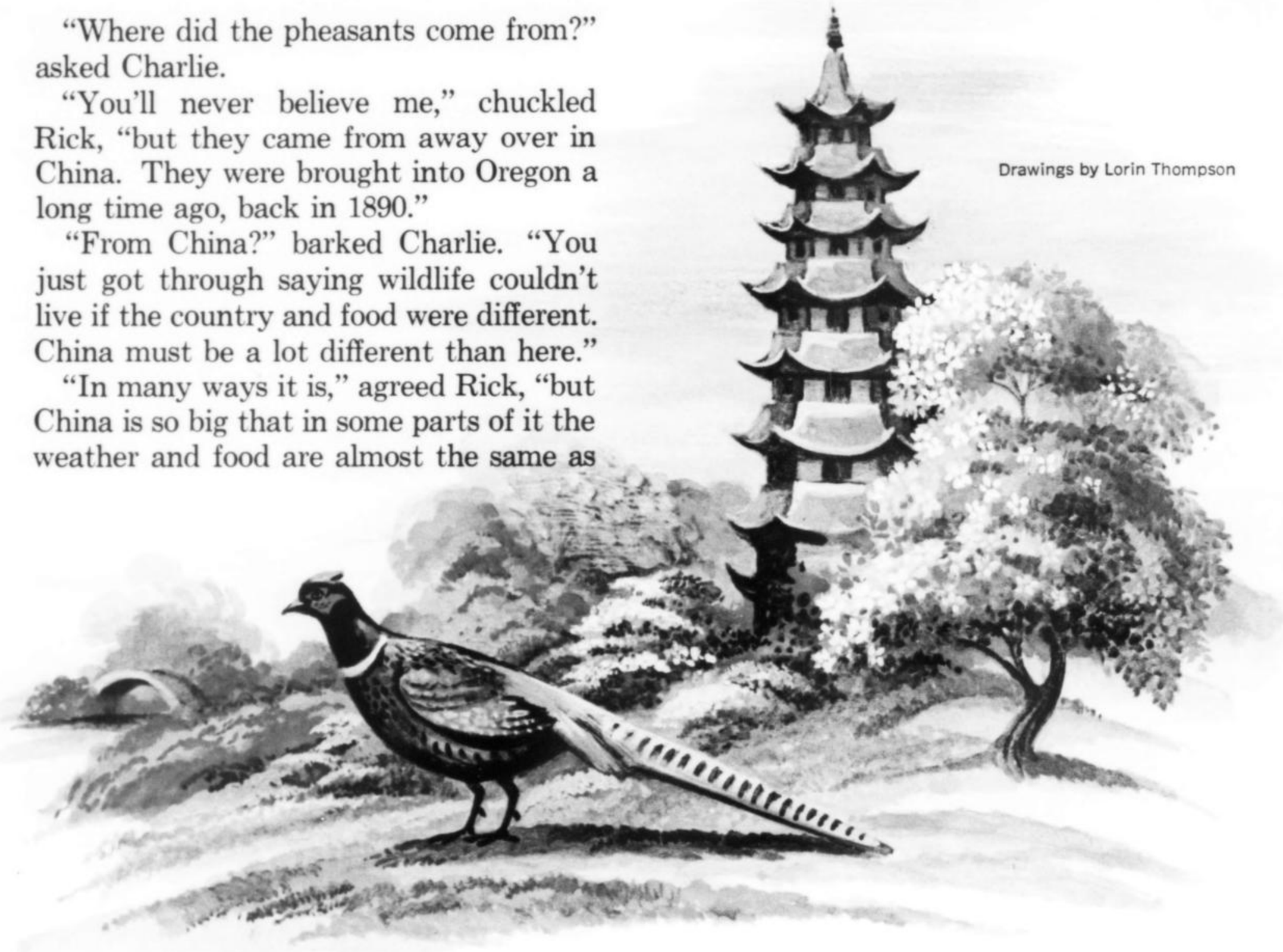
Please turn the page

"Where did the pheasants come from?" asked Charlie.

"You'll never believe me," chuckled Rick, "but they came from away over in China. They were brought into Oregon a long time ago, back in 1890."

"From China?" barked Charlie. "You just got through saying wildlife couldn't live if the country and food were different. China must be a lot different than here."

"In many ways it is," agreed Rick, "but China is so big that in some parts of it the weather and food are almost the same as



Drawings by Lorin Thompson

we have here. So they did well.

"Another reason the pheasants survived is that we don't have many birds anymore that like to feed on waste grain in open farmland so they didn't have too much competition for food. Our really native bird, the prairie chicken, couldn't learn to live on the plowed prairies so the pheasant took its place."

"Hey, look," Charlie shouted excitedly. "There's a young fox sneaking up on that big pheasant by the fence. We'd better get over there and help him."

Rick looked where Charlie was pointing and, sure enough, there was a young fox creeping through the cornstalks to where a big old pheasant was feeding happily. The pheasant was so big and looked like such a prize that the young hunter fox had eyes only for him. He didn't even see the smaller mate or the young pheasants feeding nearby.

"Let's just wait a few minutes and watch what happens," said Rick calmly.

"But, Rick," shouted Charlie, "that fox is sure to kill that beautiful pheasant."

"Just watch," insisted Rick.

Closer and closer crept the fox. So intent was he on the big dinner that seemed almost in his grasp that he stepped on a twig and it snapped.

Up popped the pheasant's head. Quickly he looked around to see where the noise had come from.

With a last-minute rush the fox leaped toward his prey.

Out of the corner of his eye the old pheasant saw the red flash of the fox. With a loud cackle and beating of wings the pheasant shot into the air leaving behind one of his tail feathers as the only prize for the young hunter.

With all the noise, the rest of the pheasant family scurried for cover. One of the birds was under a pile of cornstalks and couldn't move quickly enough. With a yelp of triumph the fox turned toward his new victim.

Just in the nick of time the young pheasant struggled out of his trap and ran through the rows of cornstalks.

Right behind him came the fox snapping his teeth, trying desperately to end the race. Around and round they went with the pheasant dodging to the right and to the left, barely avoiding his pursuer.

The fox was getting angrier and angrier as he skidded and slipped around corners each time the pheasant dodged.

At last the fox had him cornered against the farm fence. Just as he was about to grab this nice tender morsel, he was knocked head over heels by a bang on the back of his head. The old pheasant, after

Please turn the page

avoiding the first rush of the fox, had turned back quickly to protect his family.

Down he dove right on the fox's back, knocking him dizzy. As the fox staggered to his feet, he was met by a fury of pheasant leg spurs, beak and wings. For a moment the fox stood snapping and growling at his unexpected foe, but the attack was too much and he raced off across the field. Right behind him came the old pheasant, pecking at him with his powerful beak and raking his back with sharp leg spurs.

With yelps of pain the fox escaped through the fence into the woods and scampered home to nurse his wounds. He would remember to be more careful around pheasants in the future.

"Boy, that was quite a show," said Charlie, clapping his paws. "I can see another reason pheasants did so well in this country. They sure are good fighters."

"Yes," said Rick. "It takes a wise old fox to catch a wise old male pheasant, and that was a young, silly fox. He didn't have a chance.

"We're glad the Chinese pheasants did so well in our country. They are beautiful birds and are a wonderful part of our native scene today.

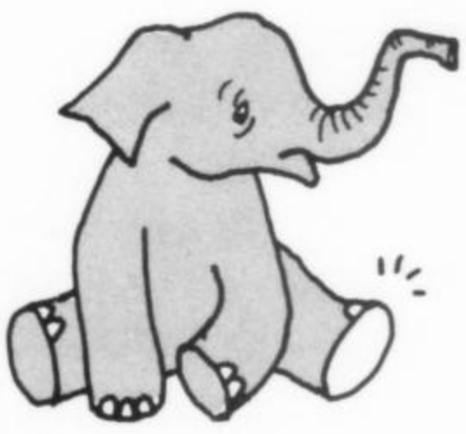
"We must remember, though, that imported wildlife can survive in the wild only under very special conditions. The pheasant's strong legs make it possible for him to run long distances. His sharp leg spurs, beak and powerful wings make him dangerous to his enemies. Also he can stand wide ranges of temperature.

"But many bad things can happen if we move wildlife around. If we don't make sure they have the right homes and the right food, they will quickly die. Or if the food and shelter are good and there are no natural enemies or controls they may increase so fast that they become pests. That is what happened when the starling was brought to New York from Europe, also in 1890. It is now a big problem in cities all across the country. This is another lesson in the 'balance of nature' which is so important to all of us."

The End

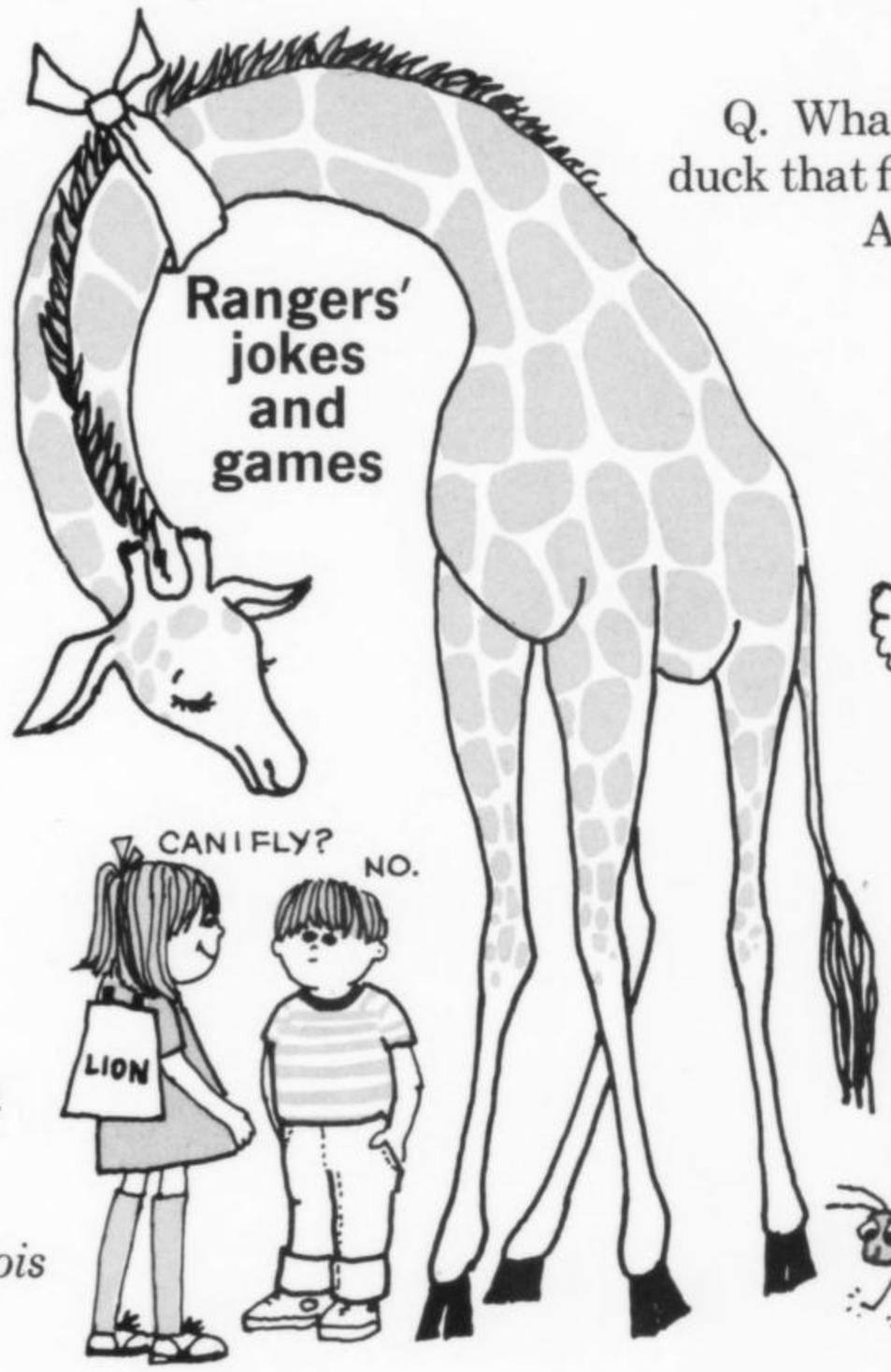
Ollie Otter's FUN and GAMES

Q. How do you keep a skunk from smelling?
A. Hold his nose.
—David F. Harrington, Minnesota



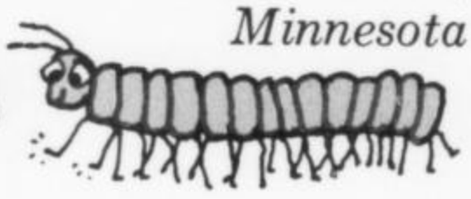
Q. What do you do when an elephant breaks his toe?
A. Call a toe (tow) truck.
—Paul Lauffenburger, Illinois

Rangers' jokes and games



Q. What happened to the duck that flew upside down?
A. He quacked up.
—Kathy Nelson, Michigan

Q. What is worse than a giraffe with a sore throat?
A. A centipede with sore feet.
—Paul Richards, Minnesota



Who Am I?

Here's a game that several Rangers can play. It's a good get-acquainted game to play at club meetings or at school on a rainy day. There are two ways to do it: Cut out pictures of animals and paste each on an 8½ x 11-inch sheet of paper. Or print the name of an animal on a large sheet of paper. Then with Scotch tape or pins put a sheet on the back of each player. Each player tries to guess which animal he is by asking the other players questions which can be answered only by a "yes" or "no."

Send your favorite riddles, jokes and games to Ollie Otter, c/o Ranger Rick, P.O. Box 2299, Phila., Pa. 19103. Be sure to give your name, age and address.

Drawings by Donna Miller

Ranger Rick's Rubber-Nosed Cousins

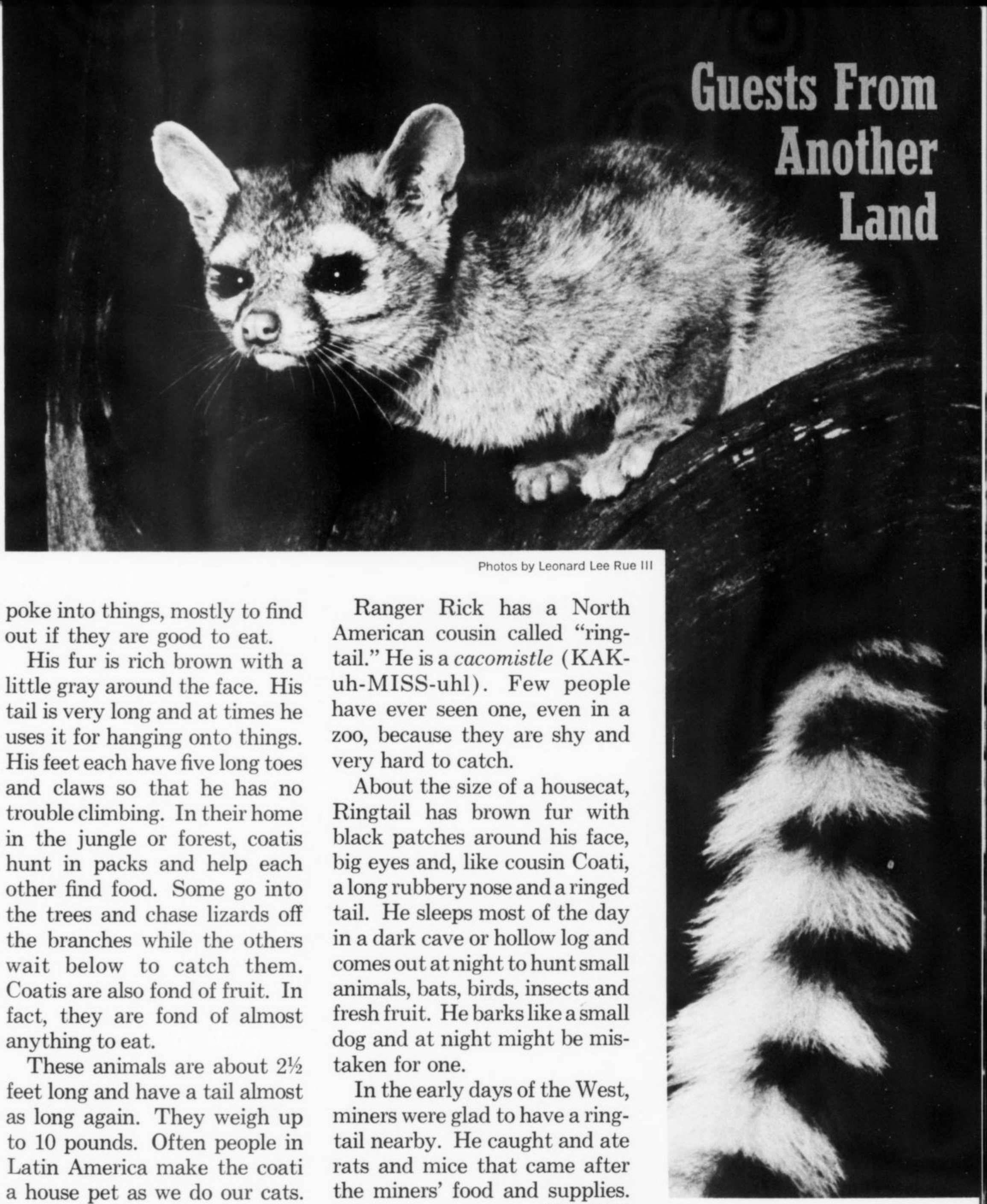
by Fred Johnson

If there's a snuffle in your ear,
It's the coatimundi–do not fear.

If you happen to be visiting friends in South America, Central America or Mexico, you might have an experience like this: You go to your room and find that things have been taken out of a drawer that you left open, and scattered around the room. Or you might be reading a book, or taking a nap, and suddenly something rubbery that sniffles is poked into your ear. You need not be alarmed. It would only be the family's pet *coatimundi* (koh-AH-tih-MUN-dih) nosing around.

The coatimundi is often called a coati. He is a long, slim cousin of raccoons and looks something like Ranger Rick stretched out. He has the same rings on his tail as the raccoon and the same playful curiosity. His long nose is slightly turned up at the end and quite rubbery. I suppose this makes it easier for him to

Guests From Another Land



Photos by Leonard Lee Rue III

poke into things, mostly to find out if they are good to eat.

His fur is rich brown with a little gray around the face. His tail is very long and at times he uses it for hanging onto things. His feet each have five long toes and claws so that he has no trouble climbing. In their home in the jungle or forest, coatis hunt in packs and help each other find food. Some go into the trees and chase lizards off the branches while the others wait below to catch them. Coatis are also fond of fruit. In fact, they are fond of almost anything to eat.

These animals are about 2½ feet long and have a tail almost as long again. They weigh up to 10 pounds. Often people in Latin America make the coati a house pet as we do our cats.

Ranger Rick has a North American cousin called "ringtail." He is a *cacomistle* (KAK-uh-MISS-uhl). Few people have ever seen one, even in a zoo, because they are shy and very hard to catch.

About the size of a housecat, Ringtail has brown fur with black patches around his face, big eyes and, like cousin Coati, a long rubbery nose and a ringed tail. He sleeps most of the day in a dark cave or hollow log and comes out at night to hunt small animals, bats, birds, insects and fresh fruit. He barks like a small dog and at night might be mistaken for one.

In the early days of the West, miners were glad to have a ringtail nearby. He caught and ate rats and mice that came after the miners' food and supplies.

The End

WHO-O-O KNOWS

by Wise Old Owl

Rangers' Questions

Why do owls sleep at day and fly at night?

—*Chrissi Winklebauer, Maine*

There are many animals and even plants that are nocturnal like the owl. This means they are active by night. Owls can see in the daytime, but not as well as at night, so most of them do their hunting after dark. They spend the day in hollow trees where they nest. Read more about owls, Page 23.

Speaking of owls, Ranger Rick gave me a letter sent by Kim Bullard in Texas. She wrote: "We have two great horned owls. The owls' names are George and Martha. My father got them when they were babies. We let them go. But they came back. Mother feeds them kidneys. They don't kill chickens. We live on a farm . . ."

That's good to know, Kim. You've had an interesting firsthand experience with owls.

Ranger Billy Peerboom from South Carolina wrote and asked me if owls are as smart as they are believed to be. Imagine my surprise! I don't think I'll answer that one. I'll just let you Rangers read the story about owls in this issue and decide for yourselves.

NOTE: They don't call him Wise Old Owl for nothing! RR

Ranger David Olstad from Virginia wrote in reply to Susan Raudebush's question which appeared in the July issue of Ranger Rick that the bird she described might be a red-tailed hawk. Ranger Paul Baker from Pennsylvania sent the same answer and added, "They are common in Mexico and our Southwestern states."

What is the most poisonous snake in North America, where does it live, and how does it make its venom?

—*Kenneth M. Weigend, Age 6, N. J.*

The most poisonous snake in North America is the rattlesnake. Its cousins, the copperhead and cottonmouth (which is also known as the water moccasin), are also very dangerous and they don't have rattles on their tails to give warning.

These snakes are found in the Western prairies and the Southern swamps as well as in the Midwest and New England.

Glands on each side of the head make and store venom. Venom is a sort of poisonous saliva. It helps the snake to kill and digest its prey. Tiny little tubes carry the poison from the venom glands to two fangs on each side of the top jaw near the front. The fangs are hollow and pointed and longer than the other teeth.

When the snake bites, the venom comes down through the fangs and into its victim. On Page 37 there is a story about a nonpoisonous snake.

NOTE: Rangers' questions help us plan our magazine. Send them to Wise Old Owl, c/o Ranger Rick, P.O. Box 2299, Phila., Pa. 19103. Be sure to give your name, age and address.

The Hog-Nosed Snake

by Percy A. Morris

With a name like that it's no wonder this snake is often called the clown of snakes. It is even thought to be the best actor of all the snakes in this country.

Luckily the hog-nose has names by which it is known in other parts of our country. Maybe where you live it is called a flat-headed adder, spreading adder, blowing adder, sand viper, puff adder or some other kind of "adder" or "viper."

This is strange because this snake is not even closely related to either the adder or the viper. These names might make you think that the hog-nose is a dangerous creature indeed, but really it is about as dangerous as a gentle rabbit!

Please turn the page

photo by Karl Moslowski, Photo Researchers, Inc.

The hog-nose snake bluffs its enemy by playing dead. The Western hog-nose, below, looks dangerous but belongs to the same common harmless snake family.

You might see an eastern hog-nose on a country walk anywhere from southern New Hampshire to Florida and west to the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains. The western hog-nose is found all over the rest of the country.

You can tell a hog-nose snake when you see one because it has a large head with a distinctly turned-up snout that looks like a pig's. Its thick body resembles an over-stuffed sausage and it moves very slowly.

It seems to like to sun itself in plowed fields and sandy roads. The only trouble is that such spots are often too far from good places to take cover and hide. In spite of what some people say, the hog-nose is not poisonous and is not able to put up a fight.

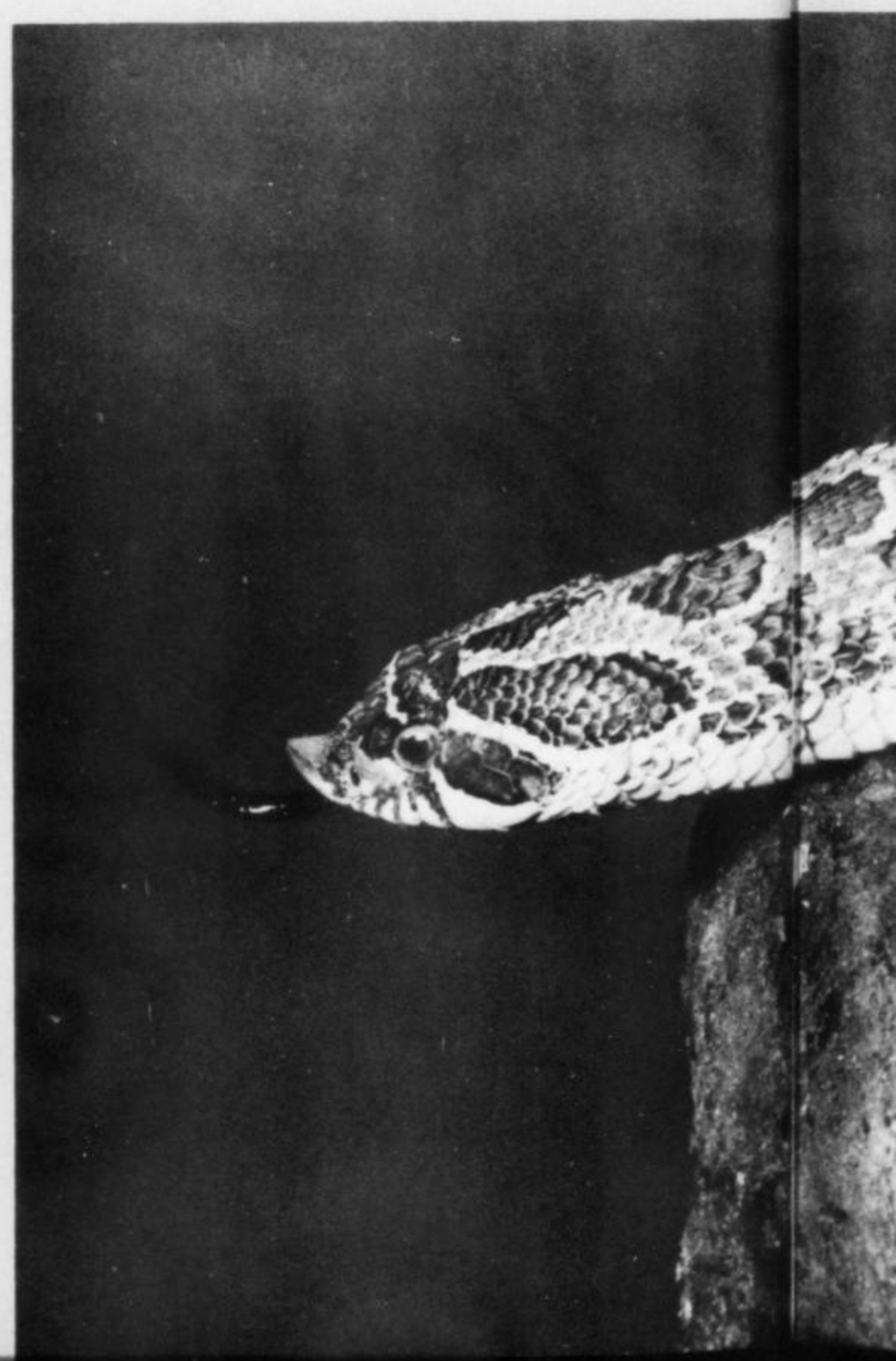
If it is discovered taking a nap in the sun it finds itself in about the same fix as the fat man who could neither fight nor run away. So the snake does the next best thing and tries to bluff its way out. This is how it got a reputation for being a good actor.

When faced with a possible enemy the snake raises its head a few inches off the ground, then spreads the upper part of its neck until that part of the body is very thin. It starts to hiss loudly and if the enemy comes too close it will make short strikes at whatever is disturbing it.

The hog-nose certainly looks like a dangerous reptile, but in spite of all the fuss it makes, it is harmless. It could not be forced to bite, but if it does strike, its mouth will be closed, so that you get just a light bump. The object of this action is to scare you into letting it alone.

The bluff doesn't last very long. If it sees that you do not scare easily, it has one more stunt to pull on you. That is to play possum. The mouth suddenly flies open and the whole body squirms in what seems to be great pain. It looks as if the snake is having a fit.

Finally the hog-nose rolls over on its back and appears to be dead. It can be picked up or even hung over a stick and



the body will stay limp and lifeless with the mouth still open and the tongue out.

Like most bluffers, however, it gives itself away by carrying the bluff too far. If it is turned right side up on the ground, it will flip over on its back with a speed that is very funny. It is plain that to it a really dead snake should be belly side up! If you keep very quiet the snake will slowly raise its head after a few minutes and look all around.

If the coast is clear the hog-nose will turn over and wriggle off as fast as it can go—which, you remember, isn't very fast. Jump up and take after it and it will flop right over on its back and play dead again. It is true that these are the actions of a newly caught hog-nose snake. After a short time in captivity it seems to realize the uselessness of such carrying on and acts like any other well-behaved snake.

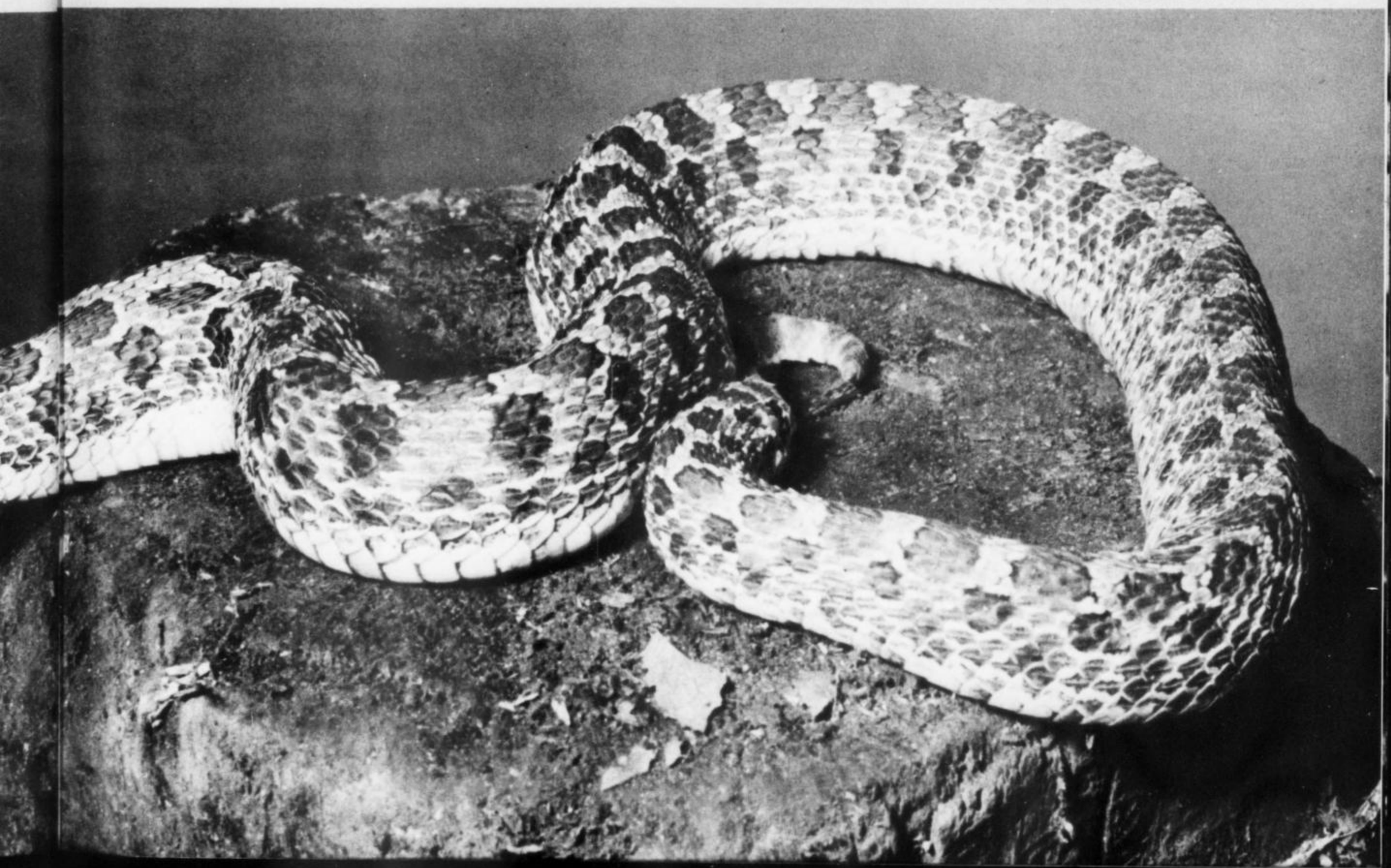
The hog-nose lives mainly on toads and frogs plus some insects and grubs. Its shovel-like snout is good for rooting around in the earth to find its food.

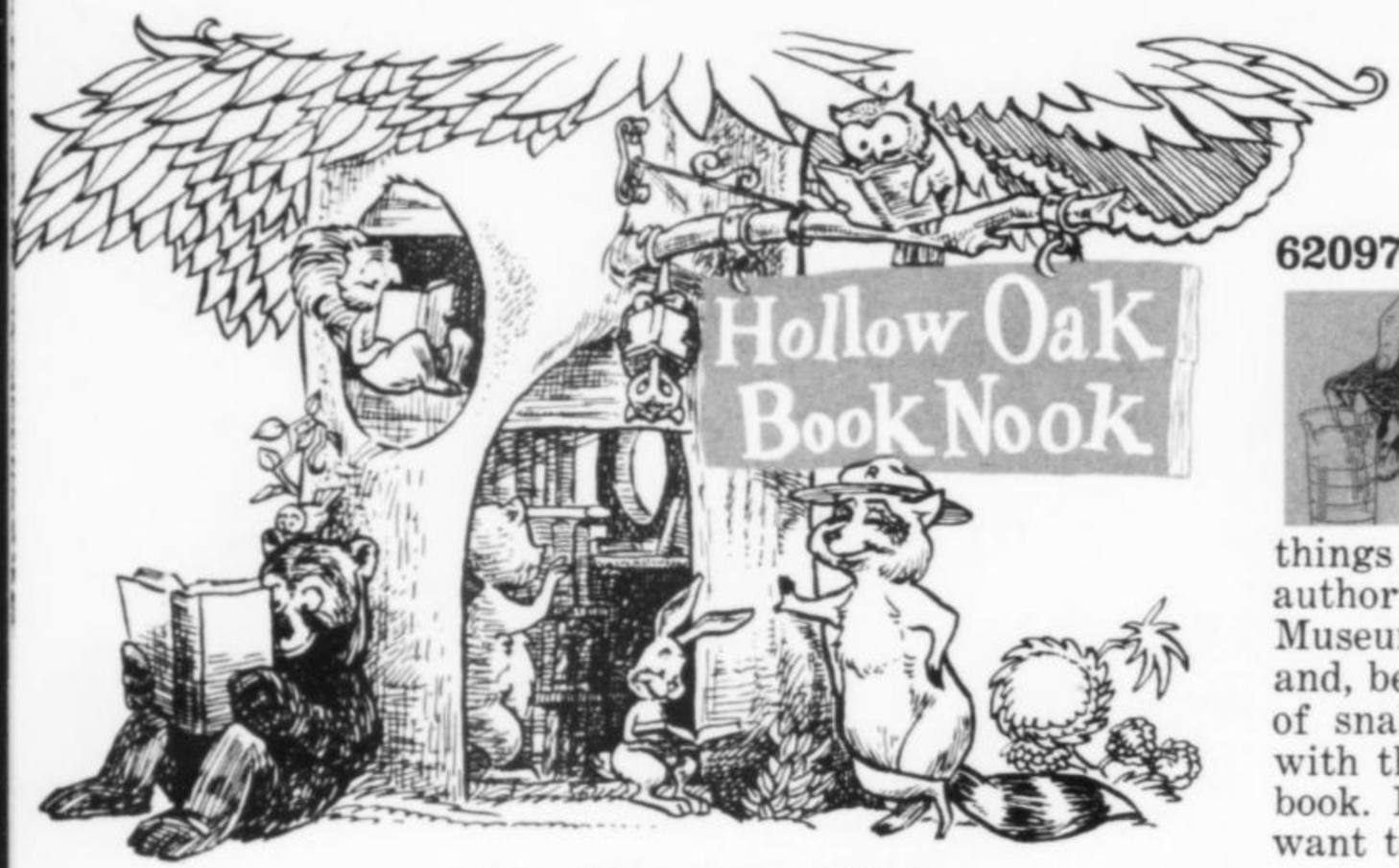
This snake makes an excellent pet. For a few days it will flatten its head and hiss fiercely, which will impress your friends. But it may be handled with no danger of your being bitten. *The End*

Rangers: Never try to pick up a snake that you *think* is a hog-nose. Some of the really dangerous snakes, such as the copperhead, look very much like it. Unless you are with a person who knows snakes very well it is important that you keep a safe distance from any wild snake.

Ranger Rick

Photos by Leonard Lee Rue III, Hal Harrison





by Ranger Rick

Hi, Members!

Winter is almost here again, and many of the animals in the woods have gone inside, or hibernated, *to protect themselves from the cold. For you Rangers, what better time of year to curl up indoors in your favorite spot with a good book to read. I've got some to tell you about this month that I think you'll really enjoy. And with Christmas coming up, you might want to give one to a good friend. To receive the books you want, just fill out the attached order form.*

62300 — Small Mammals Are Where You Find Them

In the article "Armadillos Are Hard to Believe" you read some very interesting facts about how this animal lives, eats, and protects himself. The armadillo is part of a group called mammals and is one of the animals you'll learn about in *Small Mammals Are Where You Find Them,* by Helen Damrosch Tee-Van. In this simply written, informative book you'll read about *small* mammals from the tiny shrew which weighs less than a dime to the bat that flies through the air. You'll learn first what mammals are and how they are classified. Then you'll find out in what part of the United States each animal can be found — where and how they live, what their homes are like, what they eat, and how they survive the dangers of being small animals. There's a beautifully detailed drawing of each animal by the author so that you will be able to recognize them all when you see them.

62097 — All About Snakes

If you enjoyed the article "The Hog Nosed Snake" as much as I did, you'll want to read *All About Snakes* by Bessie M. Hecht. This is a book that will tell you a great deal of interesting and surprising things about many other types of snakes. The author specialized in reptiles at the American Museum of Natural History for many years, and, believe it or not, she has always been fond of snakes. Her stories about her experiences with them make up an interesting part of the book. Here's truly unusual reading you won't want to miss!

62319 — All Kinds Of Bees

Perhaps you enjoy the taste of rich, golden honey with your breakfast on cold winter mornings. Most of us know that honey is made by bees. But did you know that bees have been on earth for more than fifty million years? Today, in many varied forms, there are more of them than ever before. In ALL KINDS OF BEES, Dorothy Shuttlesworth describes the different families of bees and the ways in which they live. You'll find out about bees that live in colonies and bees that live alone; bees that build and bees that tunnel; bees that work for man and even bees that work against him. And you'll learn about the amazing bee dances by which a worker informs her hive-mates where food is to be found.

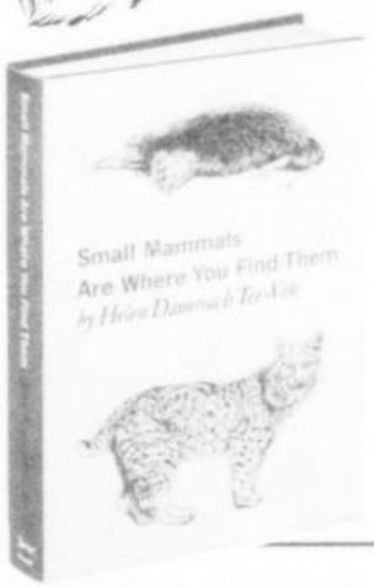
This easy-to-read book will tell you everything you'll want to know about these fascinating insects, and it's chock-full of wonderful illustrations by Su Zan Noguchi Swain.

62328 — The Otter's Tale

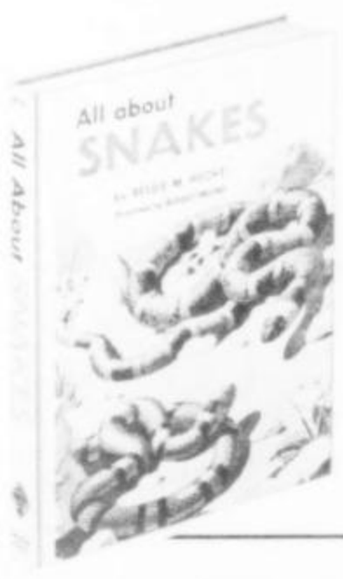
Here's a book I think you members are really going to enjoy. It's called *The Otter's Tale,* and was originally a book for adults called *Ring of Bright Water.* But Gavin Maxwell, the author, got so many requests to adapt the book for children, that he has written this new version especially for young people. It's the wonderful tale of his pet otters Mij, Edal and Teko who ran free all day, and always returned at night to sleep in the author's bed. *The Otter's Tale* is sure to fascinate and amuse you.

RANGER RICK

Hollow Oak Book Nook **Selections for November**



62300—**SMALL MAMMALS ARE WHERE YOU FIND THEM**
by Helen Damrosch Tee-Van.
Illustrated by the author.
For ages 5-12.
(Pub. Ed. $3.50) $2.80



62097—**ALL ABOUT SNAKES**
by Bessie M. Hecht.
Illustrated by
Rudolph Freund.
An "Allabout Book"
for ages 8 and up.
(Pub. Ed. $2.50) $1.95

62319—**ALL KINDS OF BEES**
by Dorothy E. Shuttlesworth.
Illustrated by
Su Zan Noguchi Swain.
A "Gateway" book for
children 7 and up to read
all by themselves.
(Pub. Ed. $1.95) $1.60

62328—**THE OTTER'S TALE**
by Gavin Maxwell.
Illustrated by the author.
For children of all ages.
(Pub. Ed. $4.50) $3.60

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Specials for Christmas

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5 Print your name and address clearly.

RANGER RICK'S

Specials for Christmas

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No. 30451—Pencil Pouch..... 1.50
No. 30451-1—Member Price 1.25

RANGER RICK COLOR BY NUMBER SET

ANOTHER NEW ITEM FOR CHRISTMAS. A delightful set of 18 color by number scenes of our National Parks. Each one selected for interest and education. Complete set of 10 Paradise colored pencils each custom stamped with Ranger Rick design. Six 8" x 10" outline sketches and twelve 5" x 8" sketches packed in heavy envelope. Will bring hours of creative fun to young and old alike.

No. 30308—Color by Numbers..... 2.00
No. 30308-1—Member Price..... 1.75

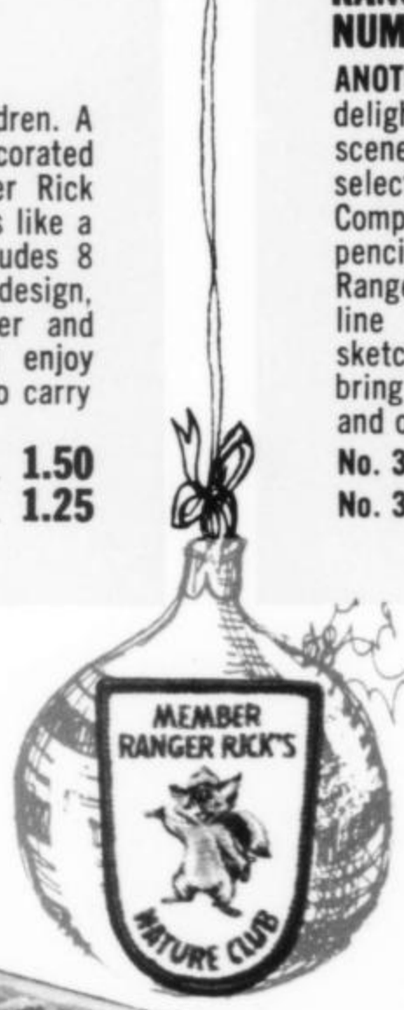
RANGER RICK HEALTH AND GROWTH CHART

FRIEND FOR TINY TOTS. Helps mom and dad keep tabs on child's development while teaching responsibility. Full-color picture of Ranger Rick, 36" high, mounted on heavy cardboard stock for a permanent chart of growth up to 54". Includes year 'round health and behavior record and 50 each "I'm Proud" and "I'm Sorry" reminder stamps. Check list of daily chores and activities plus a small blackboard for play or special messages. Children love it—parents too!

No. 30504—Ranger Rick Health and Growth Chart $2.00

(Sorry, no special price available on this item)

2 Piece Desk Set



Book Ends

Scrapbook

Pencil Cup

A GREAT SERIES of useful gifts for the young folks. Big, beautiful scrapbook for saving pictures, clippings, and many other mementos of happy times. 64 pages 11" x 14". Sturdy bookends to keep your books neat and in order. Two piece desk set for short notes and holding papers and other items. Pencil cup to keep your pens and pencils handy and in good order. All decorated with characters and maps from the classic Treasure Island. Attractive and sturdy red padded leatherlex covering.

No. 33681—Pencil Cup $1.75
No. 33672—2 Piece Desk Set $3.25
No. 33683—Book Ends $2.75
No. 33690—Scrapbook $4.00

(Sorry, no special prices available on these items)

Photos by Terry Wilson

FUR BABIES OF THE NORTH

by Anne LaBastille Bowes

Please turn the page

The sea is the seals' playground. They frolic in the surf and play "king of the hill."

Far to the north, five tiny, fog-wrapped islands rise out of the cold sea. They are the Pribilof (PRIB-i-lof) Islands, lying between Alaska and Russia in the Bering Sea. Every spring over *one million* fur seals come here and hundreds of thousands of babies are born. The seals swim up from as far south as San Diego, California, and as far west as Japan. When they are all packed upon the beaches of these small islands, it looks like a beach crowded with bathers on a midsummer weekend.

The adult males, or bulls, are big bosses. They arrive first and each stakes out his area on the rocky shores. If two males don't agree over property, much roaring and rough fighting take place.

A few weeks later in June, the cows, or females, arrive. They are much smaller than the bulls and lighter brown in color. The minute a female sets her flippers on the beach, the nearest bull waddles down and pushes her into his group of "wives." The toughest "bullies" round up the most cows. A fierce bull may keep 40 cows under his control, while a younger fellow can control only five or ten. "Teen-age" males under six years old may never have any "wives."

Within a few days after landing on the islands most females give birth to their pups. They usually have one apiece. These are handsome-looking black babies with bright eyes and silky pelts. They are very smart and know how to bite. They can swim right away! Once in a great while an albino baby is born. He has pinkish flippers and eyes, and stands out from his friends like a butterscotch ball among chocolate-covered raisins.

At first the fur babies nurse from their mothers, who have very rich milk. But when Mother gets hungry, she must go to sea and fish. Often she swims 100 miles and leaves her child for days. When she returns, Mom can pick out her own baby among the thousands packed on the beach.

In a few weeks the youngsters begin to enter the crashing waves and swim. They learn to catch small fish and little squids.

This is the main food of northern fur seals, just like their cousins in the circus.

Summer doesn't stay long in the Pribilof Islands. The hottest it ever gets is around a springlike 60 degrees Fahrenheit. On days like that, seals fan themselves with their flippers to keep cool! By September winter is coming on and the seals are ready to leave. The huge bulls forget about their mates and their beach property. The mothers take their babies and all head south.

The migration of the fur seal is the longest known among animals with flippers. Some females will cover 6000 miles round-trip—from the Pribilofs to California and back next spring. Most of the winter they stay way out at sea. Seals sleep on their backs or sides. They catch fish by diving, often as deep as 300 feet. Fifty or more miles from shore, they meet sea lions and hair seals which are harmless friends. However, they look out for the killer whales, which are deadly enemies.

The fur of these northern seals is so beautiful and thick that men have always hunted the animals. There are over 300,000 hairs on a square inch of sealskin which really makes it waterproof and warm. Not many years ago the fur seal was almost killed off because of the hunters. Just in time an international treaty was made among seal-hunting nations to protect the animals. Now only certain numbers may be taken for fur coats. If your mother has a northern sealskin jacket, you can be sure the fur was gathered safely and carefully up at the Pribilofs. Conservationists are very proud of saving the fur seal and its babies. They keep close watch now and manage these fine sea mammals wisely. *The End*

A bull seal weighs about 500 pounds and has four long, sharp teeth for fighting.

There are many reasons why I find the sea horse a very interesting fish. The shape of his head is so different from all other fish and he also behaves differently than most fish. When I read the story "Papa Sea Horse and His Children" on Page 14, I was surprised to learn that it is the father sea horse who carries the eggs until they hatch and the baby sea horses pop out of his pouch.

You may want to raise your own sea horses in an aquarium, but it is not too easy. You may be able to buy a pair of sea horses at a pet shop, the ingredients for making the salt water and the food that sea horses need. If you are lucky enough to be watching at just the right time, you will see the birth of the baby sea horses.

November is the time of the year when we begin to think about giving presents to others and also the kind of gifts we would like to receive from members of our families. One gift that I treasure is my camera. It is so useful for taking pictures of what I want to remember. I take many pictures, especially of my vacations.

Some of my most beautiful pictures are those of a sunset, a tree in bloom, a lawn covered with clover blossoms, a border of crocus flowers, a bluebird on our windowsill, the yard and trees covered with snow and a friend showing a huge pumpkin which grew in his garden.

If you don't have a camera, wouldn't it be a good idea to put this on your "Want-for-Christmas" list? You will get many ideas for using it from "Ways to Enjoy Nature With a Camera" on Page 19.

Thanksgiving also comes in November. It is a happy family holiday. The kitchen becomes a very busy place. While mother is planning the Thanksgiving dinner you can have a good time planning something special to make for the dinner table. If you decide on place cards, make each one in the shape of a different kind of leaf, fruit or vegetable. Cut them out of colored paper, and write the person's name in the center. Then put the card on the napkin at each place.

Perhaps you might like to help your mother make the centerpiece for the dinner table. Fill a small tray or large bowl with several kinds of fresh fruit and vegetables. They may include apples, bananas, pears, sweet potatoes, onions, cauliflower, grapes or oranges. You can make the leaves of many of these by drawing their exact shapes on colored paper and cutting them out carefully. When you arrange the fruit and vegetables, tuck each leaf near the one to which it belongs. This makes a very attractive centerpiece for all to enjoy.

A HAPPY THANKSGIVING to you and your family.

Miss Frances

Let's talk it over

Photo of seahorse by Toni Angermayer; Back cover photo of Eastern chipmunk by Ken Brate, both from Photo Researchers, Inc.

A story called "Papa Sea Horse and His Children" begins on Page 14.